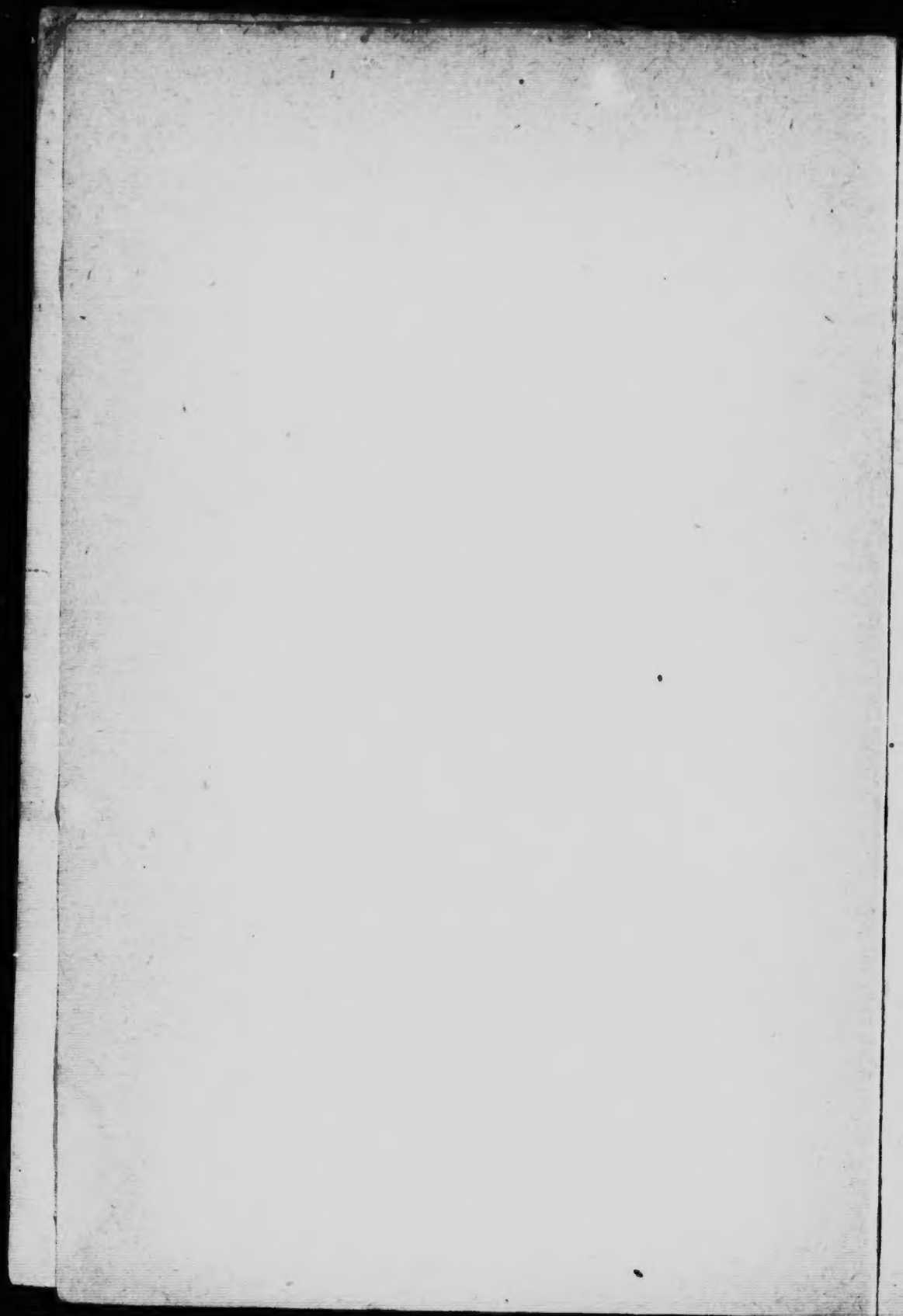




MORANG'S LITERATURE SERIES

SHAKESPEARE'S
JULIUS CÆSAR

EDITED WITH NOTES BY

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INTRODUCTION

A poet may be a story-teller, and in his narrative tell us what men have felt, said, and done in some great struggle. Touched by the magic of his imagination, exalted by his noble speech, his story becomes immortal, and is cherished even by men of other races and times, long ages after the men of whom he wrote have returned to the dust. They are still the objects of his praise or blame, and that of many generations of readers whose attitude towards them the poet has determined. He has told what manner of men they were.

This, however, is not the way in which the dramatic poet works. It is his part, not to tell us what has been done, and why it was done, but to bring men and women before us in action. We see what they do, and hear what they say; and their characters are revealed to us by their own deeds and words, and by what others, friends or foes, say of them. In fact we come to know them much as we know our acquaintances in the flesh. If the writer is a true dramatic poet his characters will become wonderfully real to us; they will be the objects of our wonder, suspicion, admiration, pity, dislike, or love, much as men we know are. To us they will be honest men or knaves, noble or base, strong or weak, cheerful or moody, wise or foolish, generous or selfish. They may be this or that; but they will be real to us, living a real life before us, with its loves and hates, its hopes and fears, its ambitions and its ideals. A new world filled with interest, delight, and profit will open before us, as we read a great drama.

Julius Cæsar is a dramatic poem. In it the world's greatest dramatist brings us to a land and time when a great political struggle, extending over many generations, is reaching its crisis. The poem bears the name of one of the world's greatest men. He had risen to a place of power such as no man had occupied in the world before. In the Roman world, extending from the Euphrates to the Atlantic, he was supreme. The government of the world was upon his shoulders. In capacity, in experience, and in temper he was fitted for the imperial task. He began to rule wisely, but was soon struck

down by daggers in the hands of his countrymen. Some of them envied him; the greatest of them loved him; they all feared his ambition.

It is not possible here even to sketch the long and bitter struggle at Rome between the nobles and the common people for the control of the government. Nor will space permit us to dwell on the process by which the stern Roman virtues, ennobling both private and public life, grew weak as time went on. "Luxury's contagion weak and vile" did its work. The nobles came to think more of plundering rich provinces that they might live themselves in wealth and splendour, than of making those provinces strong in loyalty to Rome. The "virtuous populace" that had stood, "a wall of fire," for the defence of their country in time of peril, was pauperised by the encroachments of rich landowners, by the spread of slavery displacing free labour, and by the doles of those in power, who would buy their support. Crowding to the city they became a fickle and dangerous rabble whose votes in the assemblies, with their sovereign powers of legislation, became the counters of designing men. While both classes were becoming more and more unfit for their part in government, the task of government was becoming much more complicated and more difficult. Through conquest the Roman sway, once extending over part of Italy, was nearly world-wide, as the world was known to them. Asiatics, Africans, and Europeans; races which had developed ancient civilisations by the Nile, the Euphrates, and the Ægean Sea; ruder races beyond the Alps and the Pyrenees filled with the vigour and fire of youth; these furnished grave problems of government. To govern wisely such a realm with its varied peoples, separated so far in situation, in racial temper, and aspirations, was a stupendous task. It would have been such for the constitutional government which, at its best, had governed Italy, or rather part of Italy. The Roman realm was now an empire, and things had reached a point when the empire must have an emperor or fall to pieces. The republic of the past had become impossible. The hour brought forth the man.

Julius Cæsar was a man of great intellectual gifts. He was an able writer and an orator of great power. He had shown tact and ability in government. He was a great soldier.

Whether fighting for the extension and safeguarding of the realm against brave foreign races like the Gauls and the Germans, or waging a great civil war against Pompey's legions for the control of the Roman world, he proved himself a great conqueror. In contrast with Sulla, who, when victorious, had been ruthlessly savage in his treatment of his enemies, Cæsar displayed a conciliatory temper, a magnanimous clemency that was truly admirable and remarkable for his times and his race. He became supreme. He was made dictator for life. He was a mighty prince, king in all but name. If not infallible or perfect, he began to rule ably and wisely. What he did in a short time excites our wonder. He was doubtless not without ambition, that "infirmity of noble minds." He was not the last to feel that to save or serve the state he himself must be great. Cromwell felt this; others have done so. However, his fall was at hand. *Failing to realise the inevitable* certain senators formed a plot to assassinate him.

In this play Shakespeare brings the action before us. He has drawn upon Plutarch's lives for the historical background of the play. While this is the case he has given to the actors in a marked degree that individuality mentioned before, which only the true dramatist can create. As the plot advances swiftly from the early hints of coming trouble to the conspiracy and the murder of Cæsar, then on to the downfall of his murderers and the *triumph of Cæsarism*, the young student will be filled with interest in these men, their motives and their deeds.

The Cæsar of the play is hardly the mighty Cæsar of history. It is thought by some that his character may have changed somewhat for the worse in these latter days. We should remember, however, that *up to the moment of his death* we see him at his worst. He is not to claim too much of our sympathy. He is to die; and we are largely under the influence, as it were, of those who, approaching the deed, justify it to each other and to us. We hear Cæsar belittled. This great war-lord is a man of feeble temper, behaving, when ill, like a sick girl. The man whose iron will had brought the world to his feet is superstitious grown and vacillating, and can be led by shallow flattery. He is higher in place than others, not in merit.

Brutus in soliloquy doubtless believes what he says—

"To speak truth of Cæsar I have not known when
His affections sway'd more than his reason."

However, this man whom all men honour, though a dear friend of Cæsar's, is moved, we see, to take part in the plot against him; and, while not its prime mover, becomes its real leader. To purge the state, he must kill Cæsar. This is how it seems to him. For the time we may be blind to any fault of judgment on his part, and concur in the deed; and the deed that should seem an offence may "change to virtue and to worthiness." Cæsar himself, that man of iron will, is made to vacillate. He is persuaded, against his purpose, to stay at home rather than to go to the Senate; and again, to go rather than to stay. At the last he is firm to refuse the petition of Cimber. To us for the time being, however, his firm and haughty words of refusal are not the words of the great dictator, who must not change a serious sentence without weighty reason, but the words of the man whom we have heard belittled, and whose death we know has been determined upon by these men; and so they almost seem words of rant. It is only when he is dead, and Antony pleads his cause, that we are led with the crowd to pity the mighty dead, and to blame the conspirators, who to us, too, may have become bloody murderers rather than executioners. He is dead but his cause triumphs. Brutus lives to cry in the hour of defeat—

"O Julius Cæsar thou art mighty yet."

Cassius and Brutus are the leaders of the conspiracy. A conversation of theirs first shows us their attitude towards Cæsar. Cassius, a man of strong political views, is sincere in his attachment to the old constitution; and he would die sooner than see a king in Rome. He is not generous. Not only is a king an unbearable evil, but Cæsar is not worthy of even his present greatness. "Envy of great Cæsar" shows itself when he belittles him, and will have it that he is exalted without being greater than others; and Cæsar shows discernment when he says—

"Such men as he are never at heart's ease,
When they behold a greater than themselves."

INTRODUCTION

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He is an able, practical politician. Skillfully he "whets" Brutus against Cæsar. When he warned the conspirators against Antony as an able man likely to prove dangerous, he justified Cæsar's judgment regarding his power to judge men aright. He was over-ruled on that occasion, and again with regard to the battle; and on both occasions disaster followed. As a man of action he was Brutus' superior, but in character he was not at all his equal.

Brutus "sits high in all the people's hearts," says Casca; and the victorious Antony is generous enough to say:

"This is the noblest Roman of them all.
All the conspirators save only he
Did what they did in envy of great Cæsar:
He only in a general honest thought
And common good to all made one of them."

After reading the play we can concur in this. Urged by others he enters into the plot with reluctance, and from a sense of duty. He loved Cæsar; but, with the old Roman spirit, will sacrifice his personal friend for the good of Rome. He considers Cæsar dangerous. He admits to himself that Cæsar so far has been guided by reason; but fears that a crown *might* change his nature. When we remember that Cæsar was already king in all but name and ruling with moderation, we must think that Brutus went rather far to enter a conspiracy for fear of a change that *might* take place in him. He is a theorist and idealist rather than a man of action. He is so sure of the manifest righteousness of his cause, that he cannot be persuaded to prevent Antony speaking at the funeral. We have seen how he over-ruled Cassius more than once to their undoing. His great mistake was in thinking that the murder of Cæsar would cure the evils of the times. Perhaps he realised how wrong, as well as futile, it had been, when, before killing himself, he said—

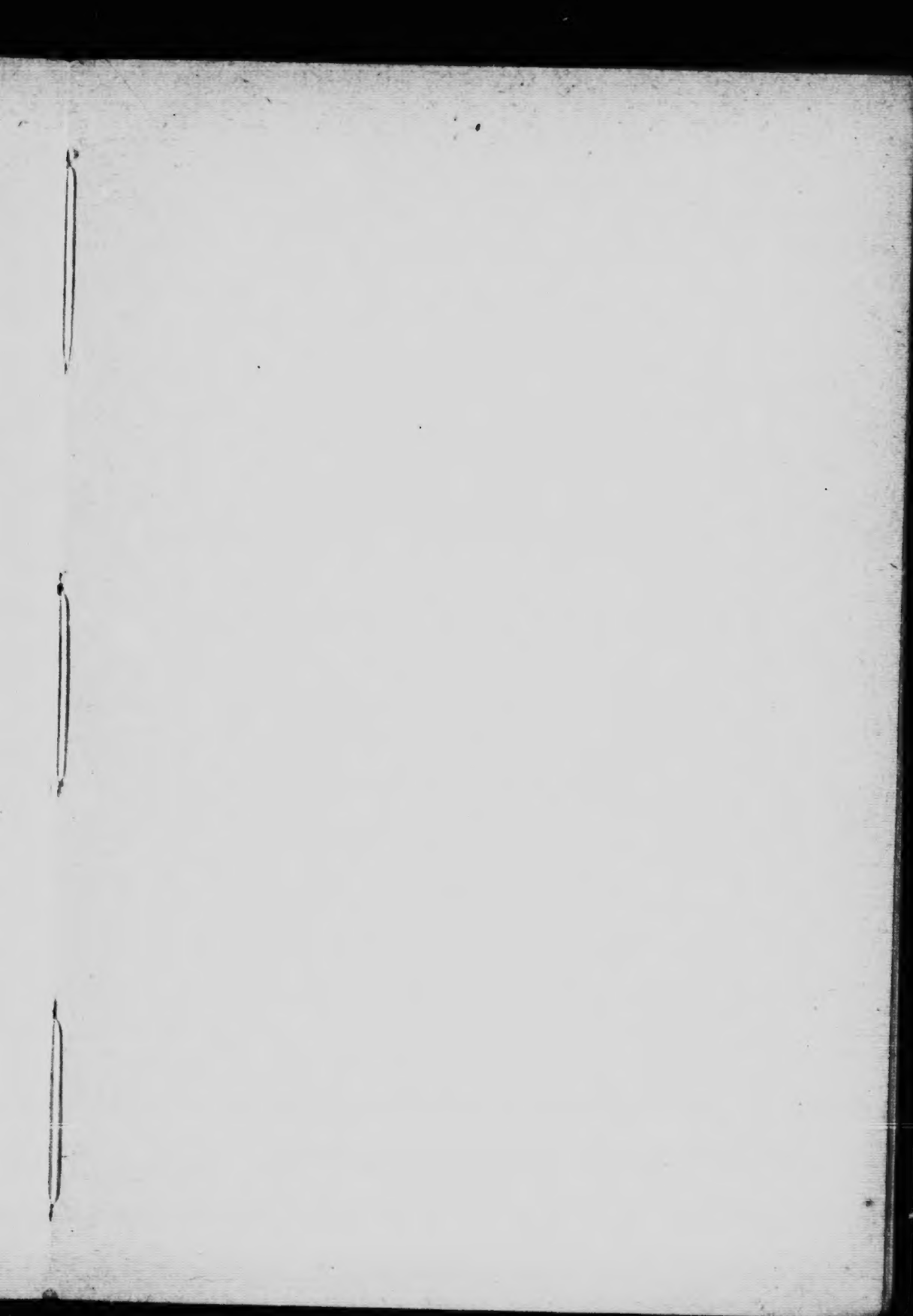
"Cæsar, now be still,
I killed not thee with half so good a will."

Early in the play Antony is a man who is fond of plays and music, whom some do not take seriously. Cassius, however, reads him aright, and fears him as one who loves Cæsar; and who, prompted by that love, may develop into an able and

dangerous opponent. Able and vigorous he comes into prominence at once after Cæsar's death, and turns the tide in favour of the Cæsarian cause. He is Cæsar's loyal friend. In his apostrophe of Cæsar after his death he does him homage in the presence of his assassins. When alone and, we may assume, speaking from the heart, he speaks his mind further—

"Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
That ever lived in the tide of times."

While he calls Brutus noble, wise, valiant, and honest, he is yet "to be resolved how Cæsar hath deserved to die." He mingles frankness and craft at this stage. His speech at the funeral is admirably suited to its purpose; and shows that, while he claims to be no orator, he is one with consummate gifts to sway the populace at his will. Cassius, still "old Cassius" with the biting tongue, may at the end call him "a masker and a reveller," but he finds that on the field of battle, as on the platform, he is strong to avenge the friend whose spirit conquers in him at Philippi.



DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

JULIUS CÆSAR.

OCTAVIUS CÆSAR,

MARCUS ANTONIUS,

M. ÆMILIUS LEPIDUS,

} triumvirs after the death of Julius Cæsar.

CICERO,

PUBLIUS,

POPILIUS LENA,

} senators.

MARCUS BRUTUS,

CASSIUS,

CASCA,

TREBONIUS,

LIGARIUS,

DECIUS BRUTUS,

METELLUS CIMBER,

CINNA,

} conspirators against Julius Cæsar.

FLAVIUS and MARULLUS, tribunes.

ARTEMIDORUS of Cnidos, a teacher of Rhetoric.

A Soothsayer.

CINNA, a poet. Another Poet.

LUCILIUS,

TITINIUS,

MESSALA,

Young CATO,

VOLUMNIUS,

} friends to Brutus and Cassius.

VARRO,

CLITUS,

CLAUDIUS,

STRATO,

LUCIUS,

DARDANIUS,

} servants to Brutus

PINDARUS, servant to Cassius.

CALPURNIA, wife to Cæsar.

PORTIA, wife to Brutus.

Senators, Citizens, Guards, Attendants, &c.

*SCENE: Rome: the neighbourhood of Sardis: the neighbourhood
of Philippi.*

JULIUS CÆSAR

ACT I

SCENE I. *Rome. A street.*

Enter FLAVIUS, MARULLUS, and certain Commoners.

Flav. Hence! home, you idle creatures, get you home:
Is this a holiday? what! know you not,
Being mechanical,¹ you ought not walk
Upon a labouring day without the sign
Of your profession? Speak, what trade art thou?

First Com. Why, sir, a carpenter.

Mar. Where is thy leather apron and thy rule?
What dost thou with thy best apparel on?
You, sir, what trade are you?

Sec. Com. Truly, sir, in respect of a fine workman, I am¹⁰
but, as you would say, a cobbler.

Mar. But what trade art thou? answer me directly.²

Sec. Com. A trade, sir, that, I hope, I may use with a safe
conscience; which is, indeed, sir, a mender of bad soles.

Mar. What trade, thou knave³? thou naughty knave, what¹⁵
trade?

Sec. Com. Nay, I beseech you, sir, be not out with me: yet,
if you be out, sir, I can mend you.

Mar. What meanest thou by that? mend me, thou saucy
fellow!

Sec. Com. Why, sir, cobble you.

20

Flav. Thou art a cobbler, art thou?

Sec. Com. Truly, sir, all that I live by is with the awl: I
meddle with no tradesman's matters, nor women's matters,

¹ *Mechanical*—Adj.; a mechanic.

² *Directly*—In a straightforward manner.

³ *Knave*—Originally "boy," then "servant," then "scoundrel," the latter meaning is not meant here. In Act IV., Scene III, Brutus calls Lucius "good boy," "poor knave," and "gentle knave."

but with awl. I am, indeed, sir, a surgeon to old shoes;
 25 when they are in great danger, I recover them. As proper
 men as ever trod upon neat's¹ leather have gone upon my
 handiwork.

Flav. But wherefore art not in thy shop to-day?
 Why dost thou lead these men about the streets?

30 *Sec. Com.* Truly, sir, to wear out their shoes, to get myself
 into more work. But, indeed, sir, we make holiday, to see
 Cæsar and to rejoice in his triumph.

Mar. Wherefore rejoice? What conquest brings he home?
 What tributaries² follow him to Rome,

35 To grace in captive bonds his chariot-wheels?
 You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things!

O you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome,
 Knew you not Pompey? Many a time and oft
 Have you climb'd up to walls and battlements,

40 To towers and windows, yea, to chimney-tops,
 Your infants in your arms, and there have sat
 The live-long day, with patient expectation,
 To see great Pompey pass the streets of Rome:
 And when you saw his chariot but appear,

45 Have you not made an universal shout,
 That Tiber trembled underneath her banks,³
 To hear the replication of your sounds
 Made in her concave shores?

And do you now put on your best attire?

50 And do you now cull out a holiday?
 And do you now strew flowers in his way
 That comes in triumph over Pompey's blood?
 Be gone!

Run to your houses, fall upon your knees,

55 Pray to the gods to intermit the festivity,
 That needs must light on this ingratitude.

Flav. Go, go, good countrymen, and, for this fault,
 Assemble all the poor men of your sort;

¹ Neat's—Horned cattle.

² Tributaries—Those who pay tribute.

³ Her banks—"Its" was just coming into use about Shakespeare's
 time. "Her" and "his" were often used instead. Compare IV,
 III, 8.

Draw them to Tiber banks, and weep your tears
 Into the channel, till the lowest stream¹
 Do kiss the most exalted shores of all.

[*Exeunt all the Commoners.*]

See, whether² their basest metal be not moved;
 They vanish tongue-tied in their guiltiness.
 Go you down that way towards the Capitol;
 This way will I: disrobe the images,³
 If you do find them deck'd with ceremonies.⁴

Mar. May we do so?

You know it is the feast of Lupercal.⁵

Flav. It is no matter; let no images
 Be hung with Cæsar's trophies. I'll about,
 And drive away the vulgar⁶ from the streets:
 So do you too, where you perceive them thick.
 These growing feathers pluck'd from Cæsar's wing
 Will make him fly an ordinary pitch,⁷
 Who else would soar above the view of men
 And keep us all in servile fearfulness.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II. — *public place.*

Flourish. Enter CÆSAR; ANTONY, for the course; CAL-
 PURNIA, PORTIA, DECIUS, CICERO, BRUTUS, CASSIUS,
 and CASCA; a great crowd following, among them a Sooth-
 sayer.

Cæs. Calpurnia!

Casca. Peace, ho! Cæsar speaks.

Cæs.

Calpurnia!

Cal. Here, my lord.

¹ The lowest stream—The river, at its lowest, will rise to fill the channel, when swollen by tears.

² Whether—Whe'er, pronounced "where."

³ Images—Statues.

⁴ Ceremonies—Festal ornaments.

⁵ Lupercal—Feast of purification, about Feb. 15th.

⁶ Vulgar—The common people.

⁷ Fly an ordinary pitch—Term of falconry. Pitch, height.

Cæs. Stand you directly in Antonius' way,
 80 When he doth run his course. Antonius!

Ant. Cæsar, my lord?

Cæs. Forget not, in your speed, Antonius,
 To touch Calpurnia; for our elders say,
 The barren, touched in this holy chase,
 85 Shake off their sterile curse.

Ant. I shall remember:
 When Cæsar says "do this," it is perform'd.

Cæs. Set on; and leave no ceremony out.

[*Flourish.*

Sooth. Cæsar!

Cæs. Ha! who calls?

90 *Casca.* Bid every noise be still: peace yet again!

Cæs. Who is it in the press that calls on me?

I hear a tongue, shriller than all the music,
 Cry "Cæsar!" Speak; Cæsar is turn'd to hear.

Sooth. Beware the ides of March.¹

Cæs. What man is that?

95 *Bru.* A soothsayer² bids you beware the ides of March.

Cæs. Set him before me; let me see his face.

Cas. Fellow, come from the throng; look upon Cæsar.

Cæs. What say'st thou to me now? speak once again.

Sooth. Beware the ides of March.

100 *Cæs.* He is a dreamer; let us leave him: pass.

[*Sennet. Exeunt all except Brutus and Cassius.*

Cas. Will you go see the order of the course?

Bru. Not I.

Cas. I pray you, do.

Bru. I am not gamesome³: I do lack some part

105 Of that quick spirit that is in Antony.

Let me not hinder, Cassius, your desires;

I'll leave you.

Cas. Brutus, I do observe you now: of late,

I have not from your eyes that gentleness

110 And show of love that I was wont to have:

¹ *Ides of March*—The 15th of March. The ides fell on the 15th or 13th of the month.

² *Soothsayer*—Truth-teller, a prophet.

³ *Gamesome*—Sportive.

You bear too stubborn¹ and too strange a hand
Over your friend that loves you.

Bru.

Cassius,

Be not deceiv'd: if I have veil'd my look,
I turn the trouble of my countenance
Merely upon myself. Vexed I am
Of late with passions of some difference,
Conceptions only proper to myself,²
Which give some soil perhaps to my behaviours;
But let not therefore my good friends be grieved—
Among which number, Cassius, be you one—
Nor construe any further my neglect,
Than that poor Brutus, with himself at war,
Forgets the shows of love to other men.

115

120

Cas. Then, Brutus, I have much mistook your passion;
By means whereof this breast of mine hath buried
Thoughts of great value, worthy cogitations.
Tell me, good Brutus, can you see your face?

125

Bru. No, Cassius; for the eye sees not itself
But by reflection, by some other things.

Cas. 'T is just:

And it is very much lamented, Brutus,
That you have no such mirrors as will turn
Your hidden worthiness into your eye,
That you might see your shadow. I have heard,
Where many of the best respect in Rome,
Except immortal Cæsar, speaking of Brutus
And groaning underneath this age's yoke,
Have wish'd that noble Brutus had his eyes.

130

135

Bru. Into what dangers would you lead me, Cassius,
That you would have me seek into myself
For that which is not in me?

140

Cas. Therefore, good Brutus, be prepared to hear:
And since you know you cannot see yourself
So well as by reflection, I, your glass,
Will modestly discover to yourself
That of yourself which you yet know not of.

145

¹ You bear too stubborn—He is like a strange driver drawing too firm a rein on a spirited horse.

² Proper to myself—Peculiar to myself

And be not jealous on¹ me, gentle Brutus:
 Were I a common laugher,² or did use³
 To stale⁴ with ordinary oaths my love
 To every new protester; if you know
 150 That I do fawn on men and hug them hard
 And after⁵ scandal⁶ them, or if you know
 That I profess myself in banqueting
 To all the rout, then hold me dangerous.

[*Flourish and shout*

Bru. What means this shouting? I do fear, the people
 155 Choose Cæsar for their king.

Cas. Ay, do you fear it?
 Then must I think you would not have it so.

Bru. I would not, Cassius; yet I love him well.
 But wherefore do you hold me here so long?
 What is it that you would impart to me?
 160 If it be aught toward the general good,
 Set honour in one eye and death i' the other,
 And I will look on both indifferently,
 For let the gods so speed me⁷ as I love
 The name of honour more than I fear death.

165 *Cas.* I know that virtue to be in you, Brutus,
 As well as I do know your outward favour.⁸
 Well, honour is the subject of my story.
 I cannot tell what you and other men
 Think of this life; but, for my single self,
 170 I had as lief⁹ not be as live to be
 In awe of such a thing as I myself.
 I was born free as Cæsar; so were you:
 We both have fed as well, and we can both
 Endure the winter's cold as well as he:
 175 For once, upon a raw and gusty day,

¹ Jealous on—Suspicious of. Compare, "sweet on."

² Common laugher—Common jester.

³ Did use—Were I accustomed.

⁴ Stale—Make stale or vapid.

⁵ After—Afterwards.

⁶ Scandal—A verb, to utter scandal about them.

⁷ Speed me—So assist me.

⁸ Favour—Appearance.

⁹ Had as lief—Had as soon.

The troubled Tiber chafing with her shores,
Cæsar said to me "Darest thou, Cassius, now
Leap in with me into this angry flood,
And swim to yonder point?" Upon that word,
Accoutred as I was, I plunged in 180
And bade him follow; so indeed he did.
The torrent roar'd, and we did buffet it
With lusty sinews, throwing it aside
And stemming it with hearts of controversy¹;
But ere we could arrive² the point proposed, 185
Cæsar cried "Help me, Cassius, or I sink!"
I, as Æneas,³ our great ancestor,
Did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder
The old Anchises bear, so from the waves of Tiber
Did I the tired Cæsar. And this man 190
Is now become a god, and Cassius is
A wretched creature and must bend his body,
If Cæsar carelessly but nod on him.
He had a fever when he was in Spain,
And when the fit was on him, I did mark 195
How he did shake: 't is true, this god did shake:
His coward lips did from their colour fly,
And that same eye whose bend doth awe the world
Did lose his lustre⁴: I did hear him groan:
Ay, and that tongue of his that bade the Romans 200
Mark him and write his speeches in their books,
Alas, it cried "Give me some drink, Titinius,"
As a sick girl. Ye gods, it doth amaze me
A man of such a feeble temper should
So get the start of the majestic world 205
And bear the palm alone. [Shout. Flourish.

Bru. Another general shout!
I do believe that these applauses are
For some new honours that are heap'd on Cæsar. 210
Cas. Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world

¹ *Controversy*—Resistance. Not a matter of words here.

² *Arrive*—Arrive at.

³ *Æneas*—A Trojan prince, who settled in Italy, and according to tradition, founded the Roman line.

⁴ *His lustre*—Its lustre.

Like a Colossus,¹ and we petty men
 Walk under his huge legs and peep about
 To find ourselves dishonourable graves.
 Men at some time are masters of their fates:

- ²¹⁵ The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
 But in ourselves, that we are underlings.
 Brutus and Cæsar: what should be in that "Cæsar"?
 Why should that name be sounded more than yours?
 Write them together, yours is as fair a name;
²²⁰ Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well;
 Weigh them, it is as heavy; conjure with 'em,
 "Brutus" will start a spirit as soon as "Cæsar."
 Now, in the names of all the gods at once,
 Upon what meat doth this our Cæsar feed,
²²⁵ That he is grown so great? Age, thou art shamed!
 Rome, thou hast lost the breed of noble bloods!
 When went there by an age, since the great flood,²
 But it was famed with more than with one man?
 When could they say till now, that talk'd of Rome
²³⁰ That her wide walls encompass'd but one man?
 Now is it Rome indeed and room enough,
 When there is in it but one only man.
 O, you and I have heard our fathers say,
 There was a Brutus once³ that would have brook'd
²³⁵ The eternal devil to keep his state in Rome
 As easily as a king.

Bru. That you do love me, I am nothing jealous;
 What you would work me to, I have some aim:
 How I have thought of this and of these times,
²⁴⁰ I shall recount hereafter; for this present,
 I would not, so with love I might entreat you,
 Be any further moved. What you have said

¹ Colossus—A huge bronze statue sixty-five feet high, said to have stood astride the entrance to the harbour of Rhodes, so that the ships passed between its feet.

² The great flood—The Greeks held a tradition of a flood, Deucalion was its Noah.

³ There was a Brutus once—Junius Brutus expelled the kings from Rome, and was first consul. In II, i, 52, Brutus says: "My ancestors did, from the streets of Rome, the Tarquin drive." In fact, he was not a descendant of "Old Brutus."

I will consider; what you have to say
I will with patience hear, and find a time
Both meet to hear and answer such high things. 265
Till then, my noble friend, chew upon this:
Brutus had rather be a villager
Than to repute himself a son of Rome
Under these hard conditions as this time
Is like to lay upon us. 280

Cas. I am glad that my weak words
Have struck but thus much show of fire from Brutus.

Bru. The games are done and Cæsar is returning.

Cas. As they pass by, pluck Casca by the sleeve;
And he will, after his sour fashion, tell you 285
What hath proceeded worthy note to-day.

Re-enter CÆSAR and his Train.

Bru. I will do so. But, look you, Cassius,
The angry spot doth glow on Cæsar's brow,
And all the rest look like a chidden train:
Calpurnia's cheek is pale; and Cicero 290
Looks with such ferret and such fiery eyes¹
As we have seen him in the Capitol,
Being cross'd in conference by some senators.

Cas. Casca will tell us what the matter is.

Cæs. Antonius! 295

Ant. Cæsar?

Cæs. Let me have men about me that are fat:
Sleek-headed men and such as sleep o' nights:
Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look;
He thinks too much: such men are dangerous. 300

Ant. Fear him not, Cæsar; he's not dangerous;
He is a noble Roman and well given.²

Cæs. Would he were fatter! But I fear him not:
Yet if my name were liable to fear,
I do not know the man I should avoid 305
So soon as that spare Cassius. He reads much;

¹ Such ferret and such fiery eyes—Eyes red and keen like those of a ferret.

² Well given—Well disposed.

He is a great observer, and he looks
Quite through the deeds of men; he loves no plays,
As thou dost, Antony; he hears no music;¹
280 Seldom he smiles, and smiles in such a sort
As if he mock'd himself and scorn'd his spirit
That could be moved to smile at any thing.
Such men as he be never at heart's ease
Whiles they behold a greater than themselves,
285 And therefore are they very dangerous.
I rather tell thee what is to be fear'd
Than what I fear; for always I am Cæsar.
Come on my right hand, for this ear is deaf,
And tell me truly what thou think'st of him.

[Sennet. *Exeunt Cæsar and all his
Train, but Casca.*

290 *Casca.* You pull'd me by the cloak; would you speak with
me?

Bru. Ay, Casca; tell us what has chanced to-day,
That Cæsar looks so sad.

Casca. Why, you were with him, were you not?

Bru. I should not then ask Casca what had chanced.

295 *Casca.* Why, there was a crown offered him; and being
offered him, he put it by with the back of his hand,² thus;
and then the people fell a-shouting.

Bru. What was the second noise for?

Casca. Why, for that too.

300 *Cas.* They shouted thrice: what was the last cry for?

Casca. Why, for that too.

Bru. Was the crown offered him thrice?

Casca. Ay, marry,³ was 't, and he put it by thrice, every time
gentler than other, and at every putting-by mine honest neigh-
305 bours shouted.

Cas. Who offered him the crown?

Casca. Why, Antony.

Bru. Tell us the manner of it, gentle Casca.

¹ Hears no music—Does not care for music.

² With the back of his hand—Not with a vigorous gesture, palm outward.

³ Marry—An exclamation, "By Mary" (the Virgin).

Casca. I can as well be hanged as tell the manner of it: it was mere foolery; I did not mark it. I saw Mark Antony³⁰ offer him a crown;—yet 't was not a crown neither, 't was one of these coronets;—and, as I told you, he put it by once: but, for all that, to my thinking, he would fain have had it. Then he offered it to him again; then he put it by again: but, to my thinking, he was very loath to lay his fingers off³¹⁵ it. And then he offered it the third time; he put it the third time by: and still as he refused it, the rabblement¹ hooted and clapped their chapped hands and threw up their sweaty night-caps and uttered such a deal of stinking breath because Cæsar refused the crown that it had almost choked Cæsar; for he swounded and fell down at it: and for mine own part, I durst not laugh, for fear of opening my lips and receiving the bad air.

Cas. But, soft, I pray you: what, did Cæsar swound?

Casca. He fell down in the market-place, and foamed at²²⁵ mouth, and was speechless.

Br. 'T is very like: he hath the falling sickness.²

Cas. No, Cæsar hath it not; but you and I
And honest Casca, we have the falling sickness.

Casca. I know not what you mean by that; but, I am sure,²³⁰ Cæsar fell down. If the tag-rag people did not clap him and hiss him, according as he pleased and displeas'd them, as they use to do the players in the theatre, I am no true man.

Br. What said he when he came unto himself?

Casca. Marry, before he fell down, when he perceived the²³⁵ common herd was glad he refused the crown, he plucked me ope his doublet³ and offered them his throat to cut. An I had been a man of any occupation,⁴ if I would not have taken him at a word, I would I might go to hell among the rogues. And so he fell. When he came to himself again, he said, If²⁴⁰ he had done or said any thing amiss, he desired their worships to think it was his infirmity. Three or four wenches, where I stood, cried "Alas, good soul!" and forgave him with all their hearts: but there's no heed to be taken of them; if

¹ Rabblement—Rabble.

² Falling sickness—Epilepsy.

³ Doublet—A garment of Shakespeare's time and country.

⁴ Of any occupation—Of any trade.

345 Cæsar had stabbed their mothers, they would have done no less.

Bru. And after that, he came, thus sad, away?

Casca. Ay.

Cas. Did Cicero say any thing?

350 *Casca.* Ay, he spoke Greek.

Cas. To what effect?

Casca. Nay, an I tell you that, I'll ne'er look you i' the face again: but those that understood him smiled at one another and shook their heads; but, for mine own part, it
355 was Greek to me.¹ I could tell you more news too: Marullus and Flavius, for pulling scarfs off Cæsar's images, are put to silence. Fare you well. There was more foolery yet, if I could remember it.

Cas. Will you sup with me to-night, Casca?

360 *Casca.* No, I am promised forth.²

Cas. Will you dine with me to-morrow?

Casca. Ay, if I be alive and your mind hold and your dinner worth the eating.

Cas. Good: I will expect you.

365 *Casca.* Do so. Farewell, both.

[Exit.

Bru. What a blunt fellow is this grown to be!
He was quick mettle when he went to school.

Cas. So is he now in execution
Of any bold or noble enterprise,
370 However he puts on this tardy form.³
This rudeness is a sauce to his good wit,
Which gives men stomach to digest his words
With better appetite.

Bru. And so it is. For this time I will leave you:
375 To-morrow, if you please to speak with me,
I will come home to you; or, if you will,
Come home to me, and I will wait for you.

Cas. I will do so: till then, think of the world.

[Exit Brutus.

Well, Brutus, thou art noble; yet, I see,
380 Thy honourable metal may be wrought

¹ Greek to me—Therefore incomprehensible, he would imply.

² I am promised forth—Have an engagement.

³ Tardy form—Boorish manner.

From that it is disposed: therefore it is meet
That noble minds keep ever with their likes;
For who so firm that cannot be seduced?
Cæsar doth bear me hard;¹ but he loves Brutus:
If I were Brutus now and he were Cassius,
He should not humour² me. I will this night,
In several hands, in at his windows throw,
As if they came from several citizens,
Writings all tending to the great opinion
That Rome holds of his name; wherein obscurely
Cæsar's ambition shall be glanced at:
And after this let Cæsar seat him sure;
For we will shake him, or worse days endure.

[Exit.

SCENE III. *The same. A street.*

Thunder and lightning. Enter, from opposite sides, CASCA, with his sword drawn, and CICERO.

Cic. Good even, Casca: brought you Cæsar home?³
Why are you breathless? and why stare you so?

Casca. Are not you moved, when all the sway of earth
Shakes like a thing unfirm? O Cicero,
I have seen tempests, when the scolding winds
Have rived the knotty oaks, and I have seen
The ambitious ocean swell and rage and foam,
To be exalted with the threatening clouds:
But never till to-night, never till now,
Did I go through a tempest dropping fire.
Either there is a civil strife in heaven,
Or else the world, too saucy with the gods,
Incenses them to send destruction.

Cic. Why, saw you any thing more wonderful?

Casca. A common slave—you know him well by sight—
Held up his left hand, which did flame and burn
Like twenty torches join'd, and yet his hand,
Not sensible of fire, remain'd unscorch'd.

¹ *Doth bear me hard*—The expression means "to dislike." Found elsewhere in this play, it is a literal rendering of a Latin phrase.

² *Humour*—Cajole, impose on.

³ *Brought you Cæsar home?*—Did you accompany Cæsar home?

Besides—I ha' not since put up my sword—
 Against the Capitol I met a lion,
 Who glared¹ upon me, and went surly by,
 415 Without annoying me: and there were drawn
 Upon a heap a hundred ghastly women,
 Transformed with their fear; who swore they saw
 Men all in fire walk up and down the streets.
 And yesterday the bird of night did sit
 420 Even at noon-day upon the market-place,
 Hooting and shrieking. When these prodigies
 Do so conjointly meet, let not men say
 "These are their reasons; they are natural;"
 For, I believe, they are portentous things
 425 Unto the climate² that they point upon.

Cic. Indeed, it is a strange-disposed time:
 But men may construe things after their fashion,
 Clean from the purpose³ of the things themselves.
 Comes Cæsar to the Capitol to-morrow?

430 *Casca.* He doth; for he did bid Antonius
 Send word to you he would be there to-morrow.

Cic. Good night then, Casca: this disturbed sky
 Is not to walk in.

Casca.

Farewell, Cicero.

[*Exit Cicero.*]

Enter CASSIUS.

Cas. Who 's there?

Casca.

A Roman.

Cas.

Casca, by your voice.

435 *Casca.* Your ear is good. Cassius, what night is this!

Cas. A very pleasing night to honest men.

Casca. Who ever knew the heavens menace so?

Cas. Those that have known the earth so full of faults,
 For my part, I have walk'd about the streets,
 440 Submitting me unto the perilous night,

¹ A lion who glared—The recognized distinction in the use of "who" and "which" was not yet fully established. Compare, "Our Father which art in Heaven."

² Climate—Region.

³ Clean from the purpose—Quite aside from, etc.

And, thus unbraced,¹ Casca, as you see
Have bared my bosom to the thunder-stone²
And when the cross³ blue lightning seem'd to open
The breast of heaven, I did present myself
Even in the aim and very flash of it.

Casca. But wherefore did you so much tempt the heavens?
It is the part of men to fear and tremble,
When the most mighty gods by tokens send
Such dreadful heralds to astonish us.

Cas. You are dull, Casca, and those sparks of life
That should be in a Roman you do want,
Or else you use not. You look pale and gaze
And put on fear and cast yourself in wonder,
To see the strange impatience of the heavens:
But if you would consider the true cause
Why all these fires, why all these gliding ghosts,
Why birds and beasts from quality and kind,
Why old men fool⁴ and children calculate,
Why all these things change from their ordinance⁵
Their natures and performed faculties
To monstrous quality,—why, you shall find
That heaven hath infused them with these spirits,
To make them instruments of fear and warning
Unto some monstrous state.

Now could I, Casca, name to thee a man
Most like this dreadful night,
That thunders, lightens, opens graves, and roars
As doth the lion in the Capitol,
A man no mightier than thyself or me
In personal action, yet prodigious grown
And fearful, as these strange eruptions are.

Casca. 'T is Cæsar that you mean; is it not, Cassius?

Cas. Let it be who it is: for Romans now
Have thews and limbs like to their ancestors;

¹ Unbraced—Ungirt. With us it would be unbuttoned.

² Thunder-stone—Thunderbolt, regarded as different from lightning.

³ Cross—Compare criss cross, zigzagging.

⁴ Fool—Act foolishly or idly. Old men and children have here changed places.

⁵ Ordinance—What is ordained.

475 But, woe the while! our fathers' minds are dead,
And we are govern'd with our mothers' spirits;
Our yoke and sufferance show us womanish.

Casca. Indeed, they say the senators to-morrow
Mean to establish Cæsar as a king;
480 And he shall wear his crown by sea and land,
In every place, save here in Italy.

Cas. I know where I will wear this dagger, then;
Cassius from bondage will deliver Cassius:¹
Therein, ye gods, you make the weak most strong;
485 Therein, ye gods, you tyrants do defeat;
Nor stony tower, nor walls of beaten brass,
Nor airless dungeon, nor strong links of iron,
Can be retentive to the strength of spirit;²
But life, being weary of these worldly bars,
490 Never lacks power to dismiss itself.
If I know this, know all the world besides,
That part of tyranny that I do bear
I can shake off at pleasure.

[*Thunder still.*]

Casca. So can I:
So every bondman in his own hand bears
495 The power to cancel his captivity.
Cas. And why should Cæsar be a tyrant then?
Poor man! I know he would not be a wolf,
But that he sees the Romans are but sheep:
He were no lion, were not Romans hinds.
500 Those that with haste will make a mighty fire
Begin it with weak straws: what trash is Rome,
What rubbish and what offal, when it serves
For the base matter to illuminate
So vile a thing as Cæsar! But, O grief,
505 Where hast thou led me? I perhaps speak this
Before a willing bondman; then I know³
My answer must be made. But I am arm'd,
And dangers are to me indifferent.

Casca. You speak to Casca, and to such a man

¹ Cassius from bondage, etc.—See how he dies in V, III, 172-7.

² Can be retentive to the strength of spirit—Can hold a strong spirit.

³ Then I know, etc.—I know that in that case, I must answer for my words.

That is no fleering¹ tell-tale. Hold, my hand:
Be factious² for redress of all these griefs,
And I will set this foot of mine as far
As who goes farthest.

810

Cas. There 's a bargain made.
Now know you, Casca, I have moved already
Some certain of the noblest-minded Romans
To undergo with me an enterprise
Of honourable-dangerous consequence;
And I do know, by this, they stay for me
In Pompey's porch: for now, this fearful night
There is no stir or walking in the streets;
And the complexion of the element
In favour 's like the work we have in hand,
Most bloody, fiery, and most terrible.

815

820

Casca. Stand close awhile, for here comes one in haste.

Cas. 'T is Cinna; I do know him by his gait;
He is a friend.

825

Enter CINNA.

Cinna, where haste you so?

Cin. To find out you. Who 's that? Metellus Cimber?

Cas. No, it is Casca; one incorporate
To our attempts.³ Am I not stay'd for, Cinna?

Cin. I am glad on 't. What a fearful night is this!
There's two or three of us have seen strange sights.

830

Cas. Am I not stay'd for? tell me.

Cin. Yes, you are.

O Cassius, if you could
But win the noble Brutus to our party—

Cas. Be you content: good Cinna, take this paper,
And look you lay it in the prætor's chair,
Where Brutus may but find it; and throw this
In at his window; set this up with wax
Upon old Brutus' statue: all this done,
Repair to Pompey's porch, where you shall find us.
Is Decius Brutus and Trebonius there?

835

840

¹ Fleering—Sneering.

² Factious—Active.

³ Incorporate to our attempts—United with us in our undertakings.

Cin. All but Metellus Cimber; and he's gone
To seek you at your house. Well, I will hie,
And so bestow these papers as you bade me.

⁵⁴⁵ *Cas.* That done, repair to Pompey's theatre. [*Exit Cinna.*
Come, Casca, you and I will yet ere day
See Brutus at his house: three parts of him
Is ours already, and the man entire
Upon the next encounter yields him ours.

⁵⁵⁰ *Casca.* O, he sits high in all the people's hearts:
And that which would appear offence in us,
His countenance,¹ like richest alchemy,²
Will change to virtue and to worthiness.

Cas. Him and his worth and our great need of him
⁵⁵⁵ You have right well conceited.³ Let us go,
For it is after midnight; and ere day
We will awake him and be sure of him. [*Exeunt.*

ACT II

SCENE I. *Rome. Brutus' orchard.*⁴

Enter BRUTUS.

Bru. What, Lucius, ho!
I cannot, by the progress of the stars,
Give guess how near to day. Lucius, I say!
I would it were my fault to sleep so soundly.
⁶ When, Lucius, when? awake, I say! what, Lucius!

Enter LUCIUS.

Luc. Call'd you, my lord?
Bru. Get me a taper in my study, Lucius:
When it is lighted, come and call me here.
Luc. I will, my lord. [*Exit.*

¹ *Countenance*—Favour; in I, ii, 166, "favour" means countenance, appearance.

² *Alchemy*—A science which sought to change baser metals to gold.

³ *Right well conceited*—Judged correctly. *Conceited* means conceived.

⁴ *Orchard*—From its derivation the word means "a garden for herbs," so here.

Bru. It must be by his death: and for my part,
I know no personal cause to spurn at him,
But for the general.¹ He would be crown'd:
How that might change his nature, there's the question.
It is the bright day that brings forth the adder;
And that craves wary walking. Crown him?—that;—
And then, I grant, we put a sting in him,
That at his will he may do danger with.
The abuse of greatness is, when it disjoins
Remorse² from power: and, to speak truth of Cæsar,
I have not known when his affections sway'd³
More than his reason. But 't is a common proof,⁴
That lowliness is young ambition's ladder,
Whereto the climber-upward turns his face;
But when he once attains the upmost round,
He then unto the ladder turns his back,
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees
By which he did ascend. So Cæsar may.
Then, lest he may, prevent. And, since the quarrel
Will bear no colour for the thing he is,
Fashion it thus; that what he is, augmented,
Would run to these and these extremities:
And therefore think him as a serpent's egg
Which, hatch'd, would, as his kind, grow mischievous,
And kill him in the shell.

Re-enter LUCIUS.

Luc. The taper burneth in your closet, sir.
Searching the window for a flint, I found
This paper, thus seal'd up; and, I am sure,
It did not lie there when I went to bed.

[Gives him the letter.]

Bru. Get you to bed again; it is not day.
Is not to-morrow, boy, the ides of March?

Luc. I know not, sir.

¹ General—The general public.

² Remorse—Pity, consideration.

³ His affections sway'd—Cæsar was not governed by his feelings rather than his reason.

⁴ Proof—Experience.

Bru. Look in the calendar, and bring me word.

Luc. I will, sir.

[*Exit.*]

Bru. The exhalations¹ whizzing in the air

⁴⁵ Give so much light that I may read by them.

[*Opens the letter and reads.*]

"Brutus, thou sleep'st: awake, and see thyself.

Shall Rome, etc. Speak, strike, redress!

Brutus, thou sleep'st: awake!"

Such instigations have been often dropp'd

⁵⁰ Where I have took them up.

"Shall Rome, etc." Thus must I piece it out:

Shall Rome stand under one man's awe? What, Rome?

My ancestors² did from the streets of Rome

The Tarquin drive, when he was call'd a king.

⁵⁵ "Speak, strike, redress!" Am I entreated

To speak and strike? O Rome, I make thee promise;

If the redress will follow, thou receivest

Thy full petition at the hand of Brutus!

Re-enter LUCIUS.

Luc. Sir, March is wasted fourteen days.

[*Knocking within.*]

⁶⁰ *Bru.* 'T is good. Go to the gate; somebody knocks.

[*Exit Lucius.*]

Since Cassius first did whet me against Cæsar,
I have not slept.

Between the acting of a dreadful thing

And the first motion, all the interim is

⁶⁵ Like a phantasma,³ or a hidcous dream:

The genius⁴ and the mortal instruments⁵

Are then in council; and the state of man,

Like to a little kingdom, suffers then

The nature of an insurrection.

¹ Exhalations—Meteors.

² My ancestors—See note, I, II, 234

³ Phantasma—Vision.

⁴ The genius—The spirit.

⁵ The mortal instruments—The bodily powers, instruments of the mind.

Re-enter Lucius.

Luc. Sir, 't is your brother¹ Cassius at the door,
Who doth desire to see you. 76

Bru. Is he alone?

Luc. No, sir, there are moe² with him.

Bru. Do you know them?

Luc. No, sir; their hats are pluck'd about their ears,
And half their faces buried in their cloaks,
That by no means I may discover them 78
By any mark of favour.

Bru. Let 'em enter. [Exit Lucius.]

They are the faction. O conspiracy,
Shamest thou to show thy dangerous brow by night,
When evils are most free? O, then by day
Where wilt thou find a cavern dark enough 80
To mask thy monstrous visage? Seek none, conspiracy;
Hide it in smiles and affability:
For if thou path,³ thy native semblance⁴ on,
Not Erebus⁵ itself were dim enough
To hide thee from prevention.⁶

*Enter the conspirators, CASSIUS, CASCA, DECIVS, CINNA,
METELLUS CIMBER, and TREBONIUS.*

Cas. I think we are too bold upon your rest:
Good morrow, Brutus; do we trouble you?

Bru. I have been up this hour, awake all night.
Know I these men that come along with you?

Cas. Yes, every man of them, and no man here 82
But honours you; and every one doth wish
You had but that opinion of yourself
Which every noble Roman bears of you.
This is Trebonius.

Bru. He is welcome hither.

Cas. This, Decius Brutus. 84

¹ Brother—Brother-in-law.

² Moe—More.

³ Path—A verb; go thy way.

⁴ Native semblance—Natural appearance.

⁵ Erebus—The Lower World.

⁶ Prevention—Discovery.

Bru.

He is welcome too.

Cas. This, Casca; this, Cinna; and this, Metellus Cimber.

Bru. They are all welcome.

What watchful cares do interpose themselves
Betwixt your eyes and night?

¹⁰⁰ *Cas.* Shall I entreat a word?

[*Brutus and Cassius whisper.*]

Dec. Here lies the east: doth not the day break here?

Casca. No.

Cin. O, pardon, sir, it doth; and yon gray lines
That fret the clouds are messengers of day.

¹³⁵ *Casca.* You shall confess that you are both deceived.

Here, as I point my sword, the sun arises,
Which is a great way growing on¹ the south,
Weighing the youthful season of the year.
Some two months hence up higher toward the north

¹¹⁰ He first presents his fire; and the high east
Stands, as the Capitol, directly here.

Bru. Give me your hands all over, one by one.

Cas. And let us swear our resolution.

Bru. No, not an oath: if not the face of men,

¹¹⁵ The sufferance² of our souls, the time's abuse,³—

If these be motives weak, break off betimes,
And every man hence to his idle bed;
So let high-sighted⁴ tyranny range on,
Till each man drop by lottery.⁵ But if these,

¹²⁰ As I am sure they do, bear fire enough
To kindle cowards and to steel with valour
The melting spirits of women, then, countrymen,
What need we any spur but our own cause,
To prick us to redress? what other bond

¹²⁵ Than secret Romans,⁶ that have spoke the word,
And will not palter? and what other oath
Than honesty to honesty engaged,

¹ Growing on—Advancing towards.

² Sufferance—Suffering.

³ Time's abuse—The abuses of the times.

⁴ High-sighted—Haughty.

⁵ By lottery—By chance.

⁶ Secret Romans—Romans bound to secrecy.

That this shall be, or we will fall for it?
 Swear priests and cowards and men cautelous,¹
 Old feeble carrions and such suffering souls
 That welcome wrongs;² unto bad causes swear
 Such creatures as men doubt; but do not stain
 The even virtue of our enterprise,
 Nor the insuppressive mettle of our spirits,
 To think that or our cause or our performance
 Did need an oath; when every drop of blood
 That every Roman bears, and nobly bears,
 Is guilty of a several bastardy,
 If he do break the smallest particle
 Of any promise that hath pass'd from him.

130

135

140

Cas. But what of Cicero? shall we sound him?
 I think he will stand very strong with us.

Casca. Let us not leave him out.

Cin.

No, by no means.

Met. O, let us have him, for his silver hairs
 Will purchase us a good opinion
 And buy men's voices to commend our deeds:
 It shall be said, his judgment ruled our hands;
 Our youths and wildness shall no whit appear,
 But all be buried in his gravity.

145

150

Bru. O, name him not: let us not break with him;³
 For he will never follow any thing
 That other men begin.

Cas.

Then leave him out.

Casca. Indeed he is not fit.

Dec. Shall no man else be touch'd but only Cæsar?

155

Cas. Decius, well urged: I think it is not meet,
 Mark Antony, so well beloved of Cæsar,
 Should outlive Cæsar: we shall find of him
 A shrewd contriver; and, you know, his means,
 If he improve them, may well stretch so far
 As to annoy us all: which to prevent,
 Let Antony and Cæsar fall together.

160

¹ Cautelous—Over-cautious.

² That welcome wrongs—As welcome, etc. See next line.

³ Break with him—Reveal plans to him. Break the matter to him.

- Bru.* Our course will seem too bloody, Caius Cassius,
 To cut the head off and then hack the limbs,
 Like wrath in death and envy afterwards;
 166 For Antony is but a limb of Cæsar:
 Let us be sacrificers, but not butchers, Caius.
 We all stand up against the spirit of Cæsar;
 And in the spirit of men there is no blood:
 O, that we then could come by Cæsar's spirit,
 170 And not dismember Cæsar! But, alas,
 Cæsar must bleed for it! And, gentle friends,
 Let 's kill him boldly, but not wrathfully;
 Let 's carve him as a dish fit for the gods,
 Not hew him as a carcass fit for hounds:
 175 And let our hearts, as subtle masters do,
 Stir up their servants to an act of rage,
 And after seem to chide 'em. This shall make
 Our purpose necessary and not envious:¹
 Which so appearing to the common eyes,
 180 We shall be call'd purgers, not murderers.
 And for Mark Antony, think not of him;
 For he can do no more than Cæsar's arm
 When Cæsar's head is off.

Cas. Yet I fear him;

For in the ingrafted love he bears to Cæsar—

- 186 *Bru.* Alas, good Cassius, do not think of him:
 If he love Cæsar, all that he can do
 Is to himself, take thought and die for Cæsar:
 And that were much he should; for he is given
 To sports, to wildness and much company.

- 190 *Treb.* There is no fear in him; let him not die;
 For he will live, and laugh at this hereafter. [*Clock strikes.*]

Bru. Peace! count the clock.²

Cas. The clock hath stricken three.

Treb. 'T is time to part.

Cas. But it is doubtful yet,

Whether Cæsar will come forth to-day, or no;

- 196 For he is superstitious grown of late,

¹ Envious—Caused by envy.

² Count the clock—The striking of the clock pertained to Shakespeare's time, not that of this action. Anachronism.

Quite from the main opinion he he'd once
Of fantasy, of dreams and ceremonies¹:
It may be, these apparent prodigies,
The unaccustom'd terror of this night,
And the persuasion of his augurers,
May hold him from the Capitol to-day.

200

Dec. Never fear that: if he be so resolved,
I can o'ersway him; for he loves to hear
That unicorns² may be betray'd with trees,
And bears with glasses, elephants with holes,
Lions with toils and men with flatterers;
But when I tell him he hates flatterers,
He says he does, being then most flattered.
Let me work;

205

For I can give his humour the true bent,
And I will bring him to the Capitol.

210

Cas. Nay, we will all of us be there to fetch him.

Bru. By the eighth hour: is that the uttermost?

Cin. Be that the uttermost, and fail not then.

Met. Caius Ligarius doth bear Cæsar hard,
Who rated him for speaking well of Pompey:
I wonder none of you have thought of him.

215

Bru. Now, good Metellus, go along by him:³
He loves me well, and I have given him reasons⁴;
Send him but hither, and I'll fashion him.

220

Cas. The morning comes upon 's: we'll leave you, Brutus.
And, friends, disperse yourselves; but all remember
What you have said, and show yourselves true Romans.

Bru. Good gentlemen, look fresh and merrily:
Let not our looks put on our purposes,⁵
But bear it as our Roman actors do,

225

¹ Ceremonies—Religious ceremonies.

² That unicorns . . . toils—Reference to real or imaginary hunting devices. The fabulous unicorn is lured on to the charge by the hunter standing against a tree. The hunter springs aside, and the unicorn's horn is driven fast into the tree by the impact. The bear, to his own undoing, gazes at his reflection; the elephant is taken in pitfalls; the lion in nets.

³ Go along by him—Call at his house.

⁴ Reasons—Cause, good reason.

⁵ Put on our purposes—Disclose our purpose.

With untiring spirits and formal constancy:¹
And so good morrow to you every one.

[*Exeunt all but Brutus.*]

Boy! Lucius! Fast asleep? It is no matter;
230 Enjoy the honey-heavy dew² of slumber:
Thou hast no figures nor no fantasies,³
Which busy care draws in the brains of men;
Therefore thou sleep'st so sound.

Enter PORTIA.

Por. Brutus, my lord!

Bru. Portia, what mean you? wherefore rise you now?

235 It is not for your health thus to commit
Your weak condition to the raw cold morning.

Por. Nor for yours neither. You've ungently, Brutus,
Stole from my bed: and yesternight, at supper,
You suddenly arose, and walk'd about,

240 Musing and sighing, with your arms across,
And when I ask'd you what the matter was,
You stared upon me with ungentle looks;
I urged you further; then you scratch'd your head,
And too impatiently stamp'd with your foot;

245 Yet I insisted, yet you answer'd not,
But, with an angry wafture of your hand,
Gave sign for me to leave you: so I did;
Fearing to strengthen that impatience
Which seem'd too much enkindled, and withal

250 Hoping it was but an effect of humour,⁴
Which sometime hath his hour with every man.
It will not let you eat, nor talk, nor sleep,
And could it work so much upon your shape
As it hath much prevail'd on your condition,

255 I should not know you, Brutus. Dear my lord,
Make me acquainted with your cause of grief.

Bru. I am not well in health, and that is all.

¹ Formal constancy—Outward calmness.

² Honey-heavy dew, etc.—Overpowering sweetness of sleep.

³ No figures nor no fantasies—In early English, as in Greek, the double negative was emphatic.

⁴ Humour—Caprice.

Por. Brutus is wise, and were he not in health,
He would embrace the means to come by it.

Bru. Why, so I do. Good Portia, go to bed. 260

Por. Is Brutus sick? and is it physical¹
To walk unbraced and suck up the humours²
Of the dank morning? What, is Brutus sick,
And will he steal out of his wholesome bed,
To dare the vile contagion of the night 265
And tempt the rheumy³ and unpurged⁴ air
To add unto his sickness? No, my Brutus;
You have some sick offence within your mind,
Which, by the right and virtue of my place,
I ought to know of: and upon my knees, 270
I charm you, by my once commended beauty,
By all your vows of love and that great vow
Which did incorporate and make us one,
That you unfold to me, yourself, your half,
Why you are heavy, and what men to-night 275
Have had resort to you: for here have been
Some six or seven, who did hide their faces
Even from darkness.

Bru. Kneel not, gentle Portia.

Por. I should not need, if you were gentle Brutus. 280
Within the bond of marriage, tell me, Brutus,
Is it excepted I should know no secrets
That appertain to you? Am I yourself
But, as it were, in sort or limitation,
To keep with you at meals, comfort your bed,
And talk to you sometimes? Dwell I but in the suburbs 285
Of your good pleasure? If it be no more,
Portia is Brutus' harlot, not his wife,

Bru. You are my true and honourable wife,
As dear to me as are the ruddy drops 290
That visit my sad heart.

Por. If this were true, then should I know this secret.
I grant I am a woman; but withal

¹ Physical—Medicinal.

² Humours—Moisture.

³ Rheumy—Damp.

⁴ Unpurged—Impure.

A woman that Lord Brutus took to wife:
 I grant I am a woman; but withal
 295 A woman well-reputed, Cato's daughter.
 Think you I am no stronger than my sex,
 Being so father'd and so husbanded?
 Tell me your counsels, I will not disclose 'em:
 I have made strong proof of my constancy,
 300 Giving myself a voluntary wound
 Here, in the thigh: can I bear that with patience,
 And not my husband's secrets?

Bru. O ye gods,
 Render me worthy of this noble wife! [*Knocking within.*]
 Hark, hark! one knocks: Portia, go in awhile;
 305 And by and by¹ thy bosom shall partake
 The secrets of my heart.
 All my engagements² I will construe to thee,
 All the charactery³ of my sad brows:
 Leave me with haste. [*Exit Portia.*] Lucius, who's that knocks?

Re-enter LUCIUS with LIGARIUS.

310 *Luc.* Here is a sick man that would speak with you.
Bru. Caius Ligarius, that Metellus spake of.
 Boy, stand aside. Caius Legarius! how?
Lig. Vouchsafe good morrow from a feeble tongue.
Bru. O, what a time have you chose out, brave Caius,
 315 To wear a kerchief! Would you were not sick!
Lig. I am not sick, if Brutus have in hand
 Any exploit worthy the name of honour.
Bru. Such an exploit have I in hand, Ligarius,
 Had you a healthful ear to hear of it.
 320 *Lig.* By all the gods that Romans bow before,
 I here discard my sickness! Soul of Rome!
 Brave son, derived from honourable loins!
 Thou, like an exorcist,⁴ hast conjured up
 My mortified⁵ spirit. Now bid me run,

¹ By and by—Soon: not in the somewhat distant future.

² Engagements—Undertakings.

³ Charactery—Writing, meaning.

⁴ Exorcist—One who calls up spirits by means of spells.

⁵ Mortified—Deadened. Brutus gives Ligarius new life.

And I will strive with things impossible;
Yea, get the better of them. What 's to do?

Bru. A piece of work that will make sick men whole.

Lig. But are not some whole that we must make sick?

Bru. That must we also. What it is, my Caius,
I shall unfold to thee, as we are going
To whom it must be done.

Lig. Set on your foot,¹
And with a heart new-fired I follow you,
To do I know not what: but it sufficeth
That Brutus leads me on.

Bru. Follow me, then. [Exeunt.

SCENE II. *Cæsar's house.*

*Thunder and lightning. Enter CÆSAR, in his night-gown.*²

Cæs. Nor heaven nor earth have been at peace to-night:
Thrice hath Calpurnia in her sleep cried out,
"Help, ho! they murder Cæsar!" Who 's within?

Enter a Servant.

Serv. My lord?

Cæs. Go bid the priests do present sacrifice
And bring me their opinions of success.

Serv. I will, my lord. [Exit.

Enter CALPURNIA.

Cal. What mean you, Cæsar? think you to walk forth?
You shall not stir out of your house to-day.

Cæs. Cæsar shall forth: the things that threaten'd me
Ne'er look'd but on my back; when they shall see
The face of Cæsar, they are vanished.

Cal. Cæsar, I never stood on ceremonies,³
Yet now they fright me. There is one within,
Besides the things that we have heard and seen,
Recounts most horrid sights seen by the watch.
A lioness hath whelped in the streets;

¹ Set on your foot—Advance.

² Night-gown—Dressing-gown.

³ Stood on ceremonies—Insisted on, or paid heed to omens.

And graves have yawn'd, and yielded up their dead;
Fierce fiery warriors fought upon the clouds,
In ranks and squadrons and right form of war,
355 Which drizzled blood upon the Capitol;
The noise of battle hurtled in the air,
Horses did neigh, and dying men did groan,
And ghosts did shriek and squeal about the streets.
O Cæsar! these things are beyond all use,¹
360 And I do fear them.

Cæs. What can be avoided
Whose end is purposed by the mighty gods?
Yet Cæsar shall go forth; for these predictions
Are to the world in general as to Cæsar.

Cal. When beggars die, there are no comets seen;
365 The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.

Cæs. Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once.
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;
270 Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.

Re-enter Servant.

What say the augurers?

Serv. They would not have you to stir forth to-day.
Plucking the entrails of an offering forth,
They could not find a heart within the beast.

375 *Cæs.* The gods do this in shame of cowardice:
Cæsar should be a beast without a heart,
If he should stay at home to-day for fear.
No, Cæsar shall not: danger knows full well
That Cæsar is more dangerous than he:
380 We are two lions litter'd in one day,
And I the elder and more terrible:
And Cæsar shall go forth.

Cal. Alas, my lord,
Your wisdom is consumed in confidence.
Do not go forth to-day: call it my fear
385 That keeps you in the house, and not your own.

¹ Beyond all use—Beyond all custom, unusual.

We'll send Mark Antony to the senate-house;
And he shall say you are not well to-day:
Let me, upon my knee, prevail in this.

Cæs. Mark Antony shall say I am not well;
And, for thy humour, I will stay at home.

390

Enter DECIVS.

Here 's Decius Brutus, he shall tell them so.

Dec. Cæsar, all hail! good morrow, worthy Cæsar:
I come to fetch you to the senate-house.

Cæs. And you are come in very happy time,
To bear my greeting to the senators
And tell them that I will not come to-day:
Cannot, is false, and that I dare not, falser:
I will not come to-day: tell them so, Decius.

395

Cal. Say he is sick.

Cæs. Shall Cæsar send a lie?

Have I in conquest stretch'd mine arm so far,
To be afeard to tell graybeards the truth?
Decius, go tell them Cæsar will not come.

400

Dec. Most mighty Cæsar, let me know some cause,
Lest I be laugh'd at when I tell them so.

Cæs. The cause is in my will: I will not come;
That is enough to satisfy the senate.

405

But for your private satisfaction,
Because I love you, I will let you know:
Calpurnia here, my wife, stays me at home:
She dreamt to-night she saw my statua,¹

410

Which, like a fountain with an hundred spouts,
Did run pure blood; and many lusty Romans
Came smiling, and did bathe their hands in it:
And these does she apply for warnings, and portents
Of evils imminent; and on her knee
Hath begg'd that I will stay at home to-day.

415

Dec. This dream is all amiss interpreted;
It was a vision fair and fortunate:
Your statue spouting blood in many pipes,
In which so many smiling Romans bathed,
Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck

420

¹ Statua—Statue.

Reviving blood, and that great men shall press
For tinctures, stains, relics and cognizance.¹

This by Calpurnia's dream is signified.

428 *Cæs.* And this way have you well expounded it.

Dec. I have, when you have heard what I can say:

And know it now: the senate have concluded

To give this day a crown to mighty Cæsar.

If you shall send them word you will not come,

430 Their minds may change. Besides, it were a mock

Apt to be render'd, for some one to say

"Break up the senate till another time,

When Cæsar's wife shall meet with better dreams."

If Cæsar hide himself shall they not whisper

435 "Lo, Cæsar is afraid"?

Pardon me, Cæsar; for my dear dear love

To your proceeding bids me tell you this;

And reason to my love is liable.²

Cæs. How foolish do your fears seem now, Calpurnia!

440 I am ashamed I did yield to them.

Give me my robe, for I will go.

Enter PUBLIUS, BRUTUS, LIGARIUS, METELLUS, CASCA,
TREBONIUS, and CINNA.

And look where Publius is come to fetch me.

Pub. Good morrow, Cæsar.

Cæs. Welcome, Publius.

What, Brutus, are you stirr'd so early too?

445 Good morrow, Casca. Caius Ligarius,

Cæsar was ne'er so much your enemy

As that same ague which hath made you lean.

What is 't o'clock?

Bru. Cæsar, 't is stricken eight.

Cæs. I thank you for your pains and courtesy.

Enter ANTONY.

450 See! Antony, that revels long o' nights,

Is notwithstanding up. Good morrow, Anto. y.

Ant. So to most noble Cæsar.

¹ Cognizance—Souvenirs.

² Reason to my love is liable—Reason, in this matter, is governed by my love for you.

Cæs. Bid them prepare within:
 I am to blame to be thus waited for.
 Now, Cinna: now, Metellus: what, Trebonius!
 I have an hour's talk in store for you;
 Remember that you call on me to-day:
 Be near me, that I may remember you.

Treb. Cæsar, I will: [*Aside*] and so near will I be,
 That your best friends shall wish I had been further.

Cæs. Good friends, go in, and taste some wine with me;
 And we, like friends, will straightway go together.

Bru. [*Aside*] That every like is not the same, O Cæsar,
 The heart of Brutus yearns¹ to think upon! [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III. *A street near the Capitol.*

Enter ARTEMIDORUS, reading a paper.

Art. "Cæsar, beware of Brutus; take heed of Cassius;
 come not near Casca; have an eye to Cinna; trust not Tre-
 bonius; mark well Metellus Cimber: Decius Brutus loves
 thee not: thou hast wronged Caius Ligarius. There is but
 one mind in all these men, and it is bent against Cæsar. If
 thou beest not immortal, look about you: security gives way
 to conspiracy. The mighty gods defend thee! Thy lover,"

"ARTEMIDORUS."

Here will I stand till Cæsar pass along,
 And as a suitor² will I give him this.
 My heart laments that virtue cannot live
 Out of the teeth of emulation.³
 If thou read this, O Cæsar, thou mayst live;
 If not, the Fates with traitors do contrive.⁴

[*Exit.*]

SCENE IV. *Another part of the same street, before the house of Brutus.*

Enter PORTIA and LUCIUS.

Por. I prithee, boy, run to the senate-house;
 Stay not to answer me, but get thee gone:
 Why dost thou stay?

¹ Yearns—Grieves.

² Suitor—One with a suit to urge.

³ Out of the teeth of emulation—Out of the reach of jealousy.

⁴ The Fates. . . . contrive—Destiny assists traitors in their plots.

Luc. To know my errand, madam.

480 *Por.* I would have had thee there, and here again,
Ere I can tell thee what thou shouldst do there.

O constancy, be strong upon my side,
Set a huge mountain 'tween my heart and tongue!
I have a man's mind, but a woman's might.

485 How hard it is for women to keep counsel!
Art thou here yet?

Luc. Madam, what should I do?
Run to the Capitol, and nothing else?
And so return to you, and nothing else?

Por. Yes, bring me word, boy, if thy lord look well,
490 For he went sickly forth, and take good note
What Cæsar doth, what suitors press to him.
Hark, boy! what noise is that?

Luc. I hear none, madam.

Por. Prithee, listen well:
I heard a bustling rumour,¹ like a fray,
495 And the wind brings it from the Capitol.

Luc. Sooth, madam, I hear nothing.

*Enter the Soothsayer.*²

Por. Come hither, fellow: which way hast thou been?

Sooth. At mine own house, good lady.

Por. What is 't o'clock?

Sooth. About the ninth hour, lady.

500 *Por.* Is Cæsar yet gone to the Capitol?

Sooth. Madam, not yet: I go to take my stand,
To see him pass on to the Capitol.

Por. Thou hast some suit to Cæsar, hast thou not?

Sooth. That I have, lady: if it will please Cæsar
505 To be so good to Cæsar as to hear me,

I shall beseech him to befriend himself.

Por. Why, know'st thou any harm's intended towards him?

Sooth. None that I know will be, much that I fear may
chance.

Good morrow to you. Here the street is narrow:

510 The throng that follows Cæsar at the heels,

¹ A bustling rumour—A sound of tumult.

² Soothsayer—Doubtless should be Artemidorus.

Of senators, of prætors, common suitors,
Will crowd a feeble man almost to death:
I'll get me to a place more void, and there
Speak to great Cæsar as he comes along.

[Exit.
515

Por. I must go in. Ay me, how weak a thing
The heart of woman is! O Brutus,
The heavens speed thee in thine enterprise!
[To herself] Sure, the boy heard me: [To Lucius] Brutus hath
a suit

That Cæsar will not grant. O, I grow faint!
Run, Lucius, and commend me to my lord;
Say I am merry: come to me again,
And bring me word what he doth say to thee.

520

[Exeunt severally.]

ACT III

SCENE I. *Rome. Before the Capitol; the Senate
sitting above.*

*A crowd of people; among them ARTEMIDORUS and the Sooth-
sayer. Flourish. Enter CÆSAR, BRUTUS, CASSIUS, CASCA,
DECIUS, METELLUS, TREBONIUS, CINNA, ANTONY, LEPIDUS,
POPILIUS, PUBLIUS, and others.*

Cæs. [To the Soothsayer] The ides of March are come.

Sooth. Ay, Cæsar; but not gone.

Art. Hail, Cæsar! read this schedule.

Dec. Trebonius doth desire you to o'er-read,¹
At your best leisure, this his humble suit.

5

Art. O Cæsar, read mine first; for mine's a suit
That touches Cæsar nearer: read it, great Cæsar.

Cæs. What touches us ourself shall be last served.

Art. Delay not, Cæsar; read it instantly.

Cæs. What, is the fellow mad?

Pub. Sirrah, give place.

10

Cæs. What, urge you your petitions in the street?
Come to the Capitol.

CÆSAR goes up to the Senate-House, the rest following.

Pop. I wish your enterprise to-day may thrive.

¹ O'er-read—Read over.

Cas. What enterprise, Popilius?

Pop.

Fare you well.

[*Advances to Cæsar.*]

¹⁵ *Bru.* What said Popilius Lena?

Cas. He wish'd to-day our enterprise might thrive.

I fear our purpose is discovered.

Bru. Look, how he makes to Cæsar: mark him.

Cas. Casca, be sudden, for we fear prevention.¹

²⁰ *Brutus*, what shall be done? If this be known,
Cassius or Cæsar never shall turn back,
For I will slay myself.

Bru. Cassius, be constant:

Popilius Lena speaks not of our purposes;

For, look, he smiles, and Cæsar doth not change.

²⁵ *Cas.* Trebonius knows his time; for, look you, Brutus,
He draws Mark Antony out of the way.

[*Exeunt Antony and Trebonius.*]

Dec. Where is Metellus Cimber? Let him go,
And presently prefer his suit to Cæsar.

Bru. He is address'd: press near and second him.

³⁰ *Cin.* Casca, you are the first that rears your hand.

Casca. Are we all ready?

Cas. What is now amiss

That Cæsar and his senate must redress?

Met. Most high, most mighty, and most puissant Cæsar,
Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat

³⁵ An humble heart,—

[*Kneeling.*]

Cas. I must prevent thee, Cimber.

These couchings and these lowly courtesies

Might fire the blood of ordinary men,

And turn pre-ordinance² and first decree

Into the law of children.³ Be not fond,⁴

⁴⁰ To think that Cæsar bears such rebel blood⁵

That will be thaw'd from the true quality

With that which melteth fools; I mean, sweet words,

¹ Prevention—(1) A going before, or forestalling. (2) Hindrance.
Likely both here.

² Pre-ordinance—What has been already established.

³ Law of Children—Caprice, not reason.

⁴ Fond—Foolish, early meaning.

⁵ Rebel blood—Rebelling against reason.

Low-crooked court'sies and base spaniel-fawning.
Thy brother by decree is banished:
If thou dost bend and pray and fawn for him,
I spurn thee like a cur out of my way.
Know, Cæsar doth not wrong, nor without cause
Will he be satisfied.

Met. Is there no voice more worthy than my own,
To sound more sweetly in great Cæsar's ear
For the repealing¹ of my banish'd brother?

Bru. I kiss thy hand, but not in flattery, Cæsar;
Desiring thee that Publius Cimber may
Have an immediate freedom of repeal.

Cæs. What, Brutus!

Cæs. Pardon, Cæsar; Cæsar, pardon:
As low as to thy foot doth Cassius fall,
To beg enfranchisement² for Publius Cimber.

Cæs. I could be well moved if I were as you;
If I could pray to move, prayers would move me;
But I am constant as the northern star,
Of whose true-fix'd and resting quality
There is no fellow³ in the firmament.
The skies are painted with unnumber'd sparks,
They are all fire and every one doth shine,
But there 's but one in all doth hold his place:
So in the world; 't is furnish'd well with men,
And men are flesh and blood, and apprehensive⁴;
Yet in the number I do know but one
That unassailable holds on his rank,
Unshaked of motion: and that I am he,
Let me a little show it, even in this;
That I was constant Cimber should be banish'd,
And constant do remain to keep him so.

Cin. O Cæsar,—

¹ *Repealing*—Recalling from exile. We speak now of repealing a law or decree, not a person.

² *Enfranchisement*—Admission to civil privileges; or here, restoration to them.

³ *No fellow*—No equal.

⁴ *Apprehensive*—Able to apprehend; intelligent.

Cæs. Hence! wilt thou lift up Olympus?¹

⁷⁵ *Dec.* Great Cæsar,—

Cæs. Doth not Brutus bootless kneel?

Casca. Speak, hands, for me!

[*Casca first, then the other Conspirators and Marcus Brutus stab Cæsar.*]

Cæs. *Et tu, Brute!*² Then fall, Cæsar! [Dies.]

Cin. Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead!

Run hence, proclaim, cry it about the streets.

⁸⁰ *Cas.* Some to the common pulpits,³ and cry out

“Liberty, freedom, and enfranchisement!”

Bru. People and senators, be not affrighted;

Fly not; stand still: ambition’s debt is paid.

Casca. Go to the pulpit, Brutus.

Dec. And Cassius too.

⁸⁵ *Bru.* Where’s Publius?

Cin. Here, quite confounded with this mutiny.

Met. Stand fast together, lest some friend of Cæsar’s

Should chance—

Bru. Talk not of standing. Publius good cheer;

⁹⁰ There is no harm intended to your person,

Nor to no Roman else: so tell them, Publius.

Cas. And leave us, Publius; lest that the people,

Rushing on us, should do your age some mischief.

Bru. Do so: and let no man abide this deed,⁴

⁹⁵ But we the doers.

Re-enter TREBONIUS.

Cas. Where is Antony?

Tre. Fled to his house amazed:

Men, wives and children stare, cry out and run

As it were doomsday.

Bru. Fates,⁵ we will know your pleasures:

¹ Lift up Olympus—Do the impossible. Mount Olympus in Thessaly was the reputed home of the gods.

² Et tu, Brute!—“You, too, Brutus!” It is not thought that Cæsar spoke these words.

³ Common pulpits—Public platforms.

⁴ Abide this deed—Be held responsible for it.

⁵ Fates—The Fatal sisters who determined the birth, life, and death of men. These the gods could not control.

That we shall die, we know; 't is but the time
And drawing days out, that men stand upon.

104

Casca. Why, he that cuts off twenty years of life
Cuts off so many years of fearing death.

Bru. Grant that, and then is death a benefit:
So are we Cæsar's friends, that have abridged
His time of fearing death. Stoop, Romans, stoop,
And let us bathe our hands in Cæsar's blood
Up to the elbows, and besmear our swords:
Then walk we forth, even to the market-place,
And, waving our red weapons o'er our heads,
Let 's all cry "Peace, freedom and liberty!"

105

110

Cas. Stoop, then, and wash. How many ages hence
Shall this our lofty scene be acted over
In states unborn and accents yet unknown!

Bru. How many times shall Cæsar bleed in sport,
That now on Pompey's basis¹ lies along
No worthier than the dust!

115

Cas. So oft as that shall be,
So often shall the knot of us be call'd
The men that gave their country liberty.

Dec. What, shall we forth?

Cas. Ay, every man away;
Brutus shall lead; and we will grace his heels²
With the most boldest³ and best hearts of Rome.

120

Enter a Servant.

Bru. Soft! who comes here? A friend of Antony's.

Serv. Thus, Brutus, did my master bid me kneel;
Thus did Mark Antony bid me fall down;
And, being prostrate, thus he bade me say:
Brutus is noble, wise, valiant, and honest;
Cæsar was mighty, bold, royal, and loving:
Say I love Brutus, and I honour him;
Say I fear'd Cæsar, honour'd him and loved him.

125

¹ *Pompey's basis*—The base of Pompey's statue, in the Curia, not the Capitol.

² *Grace his heels*—Form his retinue.

³ *Most boldest*—Double comparatives and superlatives are common in Shakespeare; compare, "How much *more* *elder* art thou than thy looks."

120 If Brutus will vouchsafe¹ that Antony
 May safely come to him, and be resolved²
 How Cæsar hath deserved to lie in death,
 Mark Antony shall not love Cæsar dead
 So well as Brutus living; but will follow
 125 The fortunes and affairs of noble Brutus
 Thorough the hazards of this untrod state
 With all true faith. So says my master Antony.
Bru. Thy master is a wise and valiant Roman;
 I never thought him worse.

130 Tell him, so please him come unto this place,
 He shall be satisfied; and, by my honour,
 Depart untouch'd.

Serv. I'll fetch him presently.

[Exit.]

Bru. I know that we shall have him well to friend.

Cas. I wish we may: but yet have I a mind

135 That fears him much; and my misgiving still
 Falls shrewdly to the purpose.³

Bru. But here comes Antony.

Re-enter ANTONY.

Welcome, Mark Antony.

Ant. O mighty Cæsar! dost thou lie so low?
 Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils,
 140 Shrunk to this little measure? Fare thee well.
 I know not, gentlemen, what you intend,
 Who else must be let blood,⁴ who else is rank:⁵
 If I myself, there is no hour so fit
 As Cæsar's death hour, nor no instrument
 145 Of half that worth as those your swords, made rich
 With the most noble blood of all this world.
 I do beseech ye, if ye bear me hard,
 Now, whilst your purpled hands do reek and smoke,
 Fulfil your pleasure. Live a thousand years,
 150 I shall not find myself so apt to die:⁶

¹ Vouchsafe—Warrant safe.

² Resolved—Informed.

³ Falls shrewdly to the purpose—Comes very near the mark.

⁴ Be let blood—Be bled, put to death.

⁵ Is rank—Grown too rank.

⁶ Apt to die—Ready for death.

No place will please me so, no mean of death,
As here by Cæsar, and by you cut off,
The choice and master spirits of this age.

Bru. O Antony, beg not your death of us.
Though now we must appear bloody and cruel, 165
As, by our hands and this our present act,
You see we do, yet see you but our hands
And this the bleeding business they have done:
Our hearts you see not; they are pitiful;
And pity to the general wrong of Rome— 170
As fire drives out fire, so pity pity—
Hath done this deed on Cæsar. For your part,
To you our swords have leaden points, Mark Antony:
Our arms,¹ in strength of malice, and our hearts
Of brothers' temper, do receive you in 175
With all kind love, good thoughts, and reverence.

Cas. Your voice shall be as strong as any man's
In the disposing of new dignities.

Bru. Only be patient till we have appeased
The multitude, beside themselves with fear, 180
And then we will deliver you the cause,
Why I, that did love Cæsar when I struck him,
Have thus proceeded.

Ant. I doubt not of your wisdom.
Let each man render me his bloody hand:
First, Marcus Brutus, will I shake with you; 185
Next, Caius Cassius, do I take your hand;
Now, Decius Brutus, yours; now yours, Metellus;
Yours, Cinna; and, my valiant Casca, yours;
Though last, not least in love, yours, good Trebonius.
Gentlemen all,—alas, what shall I say? 190
My credit now stands on such slippery ground,
That one of two bad ways you must conceit me,²
Either a coward or a flatterer.
That I did love thee, Cæsar, O, 't is true:

¹ Our arms...reverence—A much disputed passage. Their arms are strong in malice, or hatred of tyranny; their hearts are pitiful. Both welcome Antony.

² That one—conceit me—Of two bad opinions of me you must form one.

- 198 If then thy spirit look upon us now,
 Shall it not grieve thee dearer¹ than thy death
 To see thy Antony making his peace,
 Shaking the bloody fingers of thy foes,
 Most noble! in the presence of thy corse?
 200 Had I as many eyes as thou hast wounds,
 Weeping as fast as they stream forth thy blood,
 It would become me better than to close
 In terms of friendship with thine enemies.
 Pardon me, Julius! Here wast thou bay'd,² brave hart;
 205 Here didst thou fall; and here thy hunters stand,
 Sign'd in thy spoil,³ and crimson'd in thy lethe.⁴
 O world, thou wast the forest to this hart⁵;
 And this indeed, O world, the heart⁵ of thee.
 How like a deer, stricken by many princes,
 210 Dost thou here lie!

Cas. Mark Antony,—

Ant.

Pardon me, Caius Cassius:

The enemies of Cæsar shall say this;

Then, in a friend, it is cold modesty.

Cas. I blame you not for praising Cæsar so;

- 215 But what compact mean you to have with us?

Will you be prick'd⁶ in number of our friends;

Or shall we on, and not depend on you?

Ant. Therefore I took your hands, but was, indeed,

Sway'd from the point, by looking down on Cæsar.

- 220 Friends am I with you all and love you all,

Upon this hope, that you shall give me reasons

Why and wherein Cæsar was dangerous.

Bru. Or else were this a savage spectacle:

Our reasons are so full of good regard

- 225 That were you, Antony, the son of Cæsar,

You should be satisfied.

Ant.

That's all I seek:

¹ Dearer—More keenly.

² Bay'd—Brought to bay.

³ Signed in thy spoil—Stained with thy blood.

⁴ Lethe—Death, a Latin word in origin.

⁵ Hart . . . heart—Notice the play on words even here.

⁶ Prick'd—Marked off.

And am moreover suitor that I may
Produce his body to the market-place;
And in the pulpit, as becomes a friend,
Speak in the order of his funeral.

230

Bru. You shall, Mark Antony.

Cas.

Brutus, a word with you.

[*Aside to Bru.*] You know not what you do: do not consent
That Antony speak in his funeral:

Know you how much the people may be moved
By that which he will utter?

Bru.

By your pardon;

235

I will myself into the pulpit first,
And show the reason of our Cæsar's death:
What Antony shall speak, I will protest
He speaks by leave and by permission,
And that we are contented Cæsar shall
Have all true rites and lawful ceremonies.
It shall advantage more than do us wrong.

240

Cas. I know not what may fall; I like it not.

Bru. Mark Antony, here, take you Cæsar's body.

You shall not in your funeral speech blame us,
But speak all good you can devise of Cæsar,
And say you do 't by our permission;
Else shall you not have any hand at all
About his funeral: and you shall speak
In the same pulpit whereto I am going,
After my speech is ended.

245

250

Ant.

Be it so;

I do desire no more.

Bru. Prepare the body then, and follow us.

[*Exeunt all but Antony.*]

Ant. O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
That ever lived in the tide of times.
Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!
Over thy wounds now do I prophesy,—
Which, like dumb mouths, do ope their ruby lips,
To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue—
A curse shall light upon the limbs of men:

255

260

Domestic fury and fierce civil strife
 Shall cumber all the parts of Italy;
 266 Blood and destruction shall be so in use
 And dreadful objects so familiar
 That mothers shall but smile when they behold
 Their infants quarter'd with the hands of war;
 All pity choked with custom of fell deeds:
 270 And Cæsar's spirit, ranging for revenge,
 With Ate¹ by his side come hot from hell,
 Shall in these confines with a monarch's voice
 Cry "Havoc,"² and let slip the dogs of war;
 That this foul deed shall smell above the earth
 275 With carrion men, groaning for burial.

Enter a Servant.

You serve Octavius Cæsar, do you not?

Serv. I do, Mark Antony.

Ant. Cæsar did write for him to come to Rome.

Serv. He did receive his letters, and is coming;

280 And bid me say to you by word of mouth—

O Cæsar!—

[Seeing the body.]

Ant. Thy heart is big, get thee apart and weep.

Passion, I see, is catching; for mine eyes,
 Seeing those beads of sorrow stand in thine,

285 Began to water. Is thy master coming?

Serv. He lies to-night within seven leagues of Rome.

Ant. Post back with speed and tell him what hath
 chanced:

Here is a mourning Rome, a dangerous Rome,
 No Rome of safety for Octavius yet;

290 Hie hence, and tell him so. Yet, stay awhile;
 Thou shalt not back till I have borne this corse
 Into the market-place: there shall I try,
 In my oration, how the people take
 The cruel issue³ of these bloody men;
 295 According to the which, thou shalt discourse

¹ Ate—Goddess of mischief.

² Havoc—A hunting cry; and war cry.

³ Issue—Deed.

To young Octavius of the state of things.

Lend me your hand. *[Exeunt with Cæsar's body.]*

SCENE II. *The Forum.*

Enter BRUTUS and CASSIUS, and a throng of Citizens.

Citizens. We will be satisfied; let us be satisfied.

Bru. Then follow me, and give me audience, friends.

Cassius, go you into the other street,

300

And part the numbers.¹

Those that will hear me speak, let 'em stay here;

Those that will follow Cassius, go with him;

And public reasons shall be rendered

Of Cæsar's death.

305

First Cit. I will hear Brutus speak.

Sec. Cit. I will hear Cassius; and compare their reasons,
When severally we hear them rendered.

[Exit Cassius, with some of the Citizens.]

Brutus goes into the pulpit.

Third Cit. The noble Brutus is ascended: silence!

Bru. Be patient till the last.

Romans, countrymen, and lovers²! hear me for my cause, and³¹⁰
be silent, that you may hear: believe me for mine honour, and
have respect to mine honour,³ that you may believe: censure
me in your wisdom, and awake your senses, that you may the
better judge. If there be any in this assembly, any friend
of Cæsar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love to Cæsar was no³¹⁵
less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose
against Cæsar, this is my answer:—Not that I loved Cæsar
less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Cæsar
were living and die all slaves, than that Cæsar were dead, to
live all free men? As Cæsar loved me, I weep for him; as³²⁰
he was fortunate, I rejoice at it; as he was valiant, I honour
him: but, as he was ambitious, I slew him. There is tears
for his love; joy for his fortune; honour for his valour; and
death for his ambition. Who is here so base that would be a
bondman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is³²⁵

¹ Part the numbers—Divide the crowd.

² Lovers—Friends.

³ Have respect to mine honour—Respect or regard my honour.

here so rude that would not be a Roman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so vile that will not love his country? If any, speak; for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

230 *All.* None, Brutus, none.

Bru. Then none have I offended. I have done no more to Cæsar than you shall do to Brutus. The question of his death is enrolled in the Capitol; his glory not extenuated,¹ wherein he was worthy, nor his offences enforced, for which
335 he suffered death.

Enter ANTONY and others, with CÆSAR's body.

Here comes his body, mourned by Mark Antony; who, though he had no hand in his death, shall receive the benefit of his dying, a place in the commonwealth; as which of you shall not? With this I depart,—that, as I slew my best lover for
340 the good of Rome, I have the same dagger for myself, when it shall please my country to need my death.

All. Live, Brutus! live, live!

First Cit. Bring him with triumph home unto his house.

Sec. Cit. Give him a statue with his ancestors.²

345 *Third Cit.* Let him be Cæsar.

Fourth Cit. Cæsar's better parts

Shall be crown'd in Brutus.

First Cit. We'll bring him to his house

With shouts and clamours.

Bru. My countrymen,—

Sec. Cit. Peace, silence! Brutus speaks.

First Cit. Peace, ho!

Bru. Good countrymen, let me depart alone,

350 And, for my sake, stay here with Antony:

Do grace to Cæsar's corpse, and grace his speech

Tending to Cæsar's glories; which Mark Antony,

By our permission, is allow'd to make.

I do entreat you, not a man depart,

355 Save I alone, till Antony have spoke.

[Exit,

First Cit. Stay, ho! and let us hear Mark Antony.

¹ *Extenuated*—Undervalued, belittled.

² *A statue with his ancestors*—A statue among those of his ancestors.

Third Cit. Let him go up into the public chair;
We'll hear him. Noble Antony, go up.

Ant. For Brutus' sake, I am beholding¹ to you.

[*Goes into the pulpit.*

Fourth Cit. What does he say of Brutus? 360

Third Cit.

He says, for Brutus' sake,

He finds himself beholding to us all.

Fourth Cit. 'T were best he speak no harm of Brutus here.

First Cit. This Cæsar was a tyrant.

Third Cit.

Nay, that's certain:

We are blest that Rome is rid of him.

Sec. Cit. Peace! let us hear what Antony can say. 365

Ant. You gentle Romans,—

Citizens.

Peace, ho! let us hear him.

Ant. Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;

I come to bury Cæsar, not to praise him.

The evil that men do lives after them;

The good is oft interr'd with their bones; 370

So let it be with Cæsar. The noble Brutus

Hath told you Cæsar was ambitious:

If it were so, it was a grievous fault,

And grievously hath Cæsar answer'd it.

Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest— 375

For Brutus is an honourable man;

So are they all, all honourable men—

Come I to speak in Cæsar's funeral.

He was my friend, faithful and just to me:

But Brutus says he was ambitious; 380

And Brutus is an honourable man.

He hath brought many captives home to Rome,

Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:

Did this in Cæsar seem ambitious?

When that the poor have cried, Cæsar hath wept: 385

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man.

You all did see that on the Lupercal

I thrice presented him a kingly crown, 390

Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition?

¹ Beholding—Rather beholden.

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;
And, sure, he is an honourable man.

I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,

395 But here I am to speak what I do know.

You all did love him once, not without cause:

What cause withholds you then, to mourn for him?

O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts,

And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;

400 My heart is in the coffin there with Cæsar,

And I must pause till it come back to me.

First Cit. Methinks there is much reason in his sayings.

Sec. Cit. If thou consider rightly of the matter,
Cæsar has had great wrong.

Third Cit. Has he, masters?

405 I fear there will a worse come in his place.

Fourth Cit. Mark'd ye his words? He would not take the
crown;

Therefore 't is certain he was not ambitious.

First Cit. If it be found so, some will dear abide it.¹

Sec. Cit. Poor soul! his eyes are red as fire with weeping.

410 *Third Cit.* There 's not a nobler man in Rome than Antony.

Fourth Cit. Now mark him, he begins again to speak.

Ant. But yesterday the word of Cæsar might
Have stood against the world; now lies he there,
And none so poor to do him reverence.

415 O masters, if I were disposed to stir

Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,

I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong,

Who, you all know, are honourable men:

I will not do them wrong; I rather choose

420 To wrong the dead, to wrong myself and you,

Than I will wrong such honourable men.

But here 's a parchment with the seal of Cæsar;

I found it in his closet, 't is his will:

Let but the commons² hear this testament—

425 Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read—

And they would go and kiss dead Cæsar's wounds

¹ Dear abide it—Pay dear for it.

² Commons—Common people.

And dip their napkins¹ in his sacred blood,
Yea, beg a hair of him for memory,
And, dying, mention it within their wills,
Bequeathing it as a rich legacy
Unto their issue.

Fourth Cit. We'll hear the will: read it, Mark Antony.

All. The will, the will! we will hear Cæsar's will.

Ant. Have patience, gentle friends, I must not read it;
It is not meet you know how Cæsar loved you.
You are not wood, you are not stones, but men;
And, being men, hearing the will of Cæsar,
It will inflame you, it will make you mad:
'T is good you know not that you are his heirs;
For, if you should, O, what would come of it!

Fourth Cit. Read the will; we'll hear it, Antony;
You shall read us the will, Cæsar's will.

Ant. Will you be patient? will you stay awhile?
I have o'ershot myself to tell you of it:
I fear I wrong the honourable men
Whose daggers have stabb'd Cæsar; I do fear it.

Fourth Cit. They were traitors: honourable men!

All. The will! the testament!

Sec. Cit. They were villains, murderers: the will! read the will.

Ant. You will compel me, then, to read the will?
Then make a ring about the corpse of Cæsar,
And let me show you him that made the will.
Shall I descend? and will you give me leave?

Several Cit. Come down.

Sec. Cit. Descend.

Third Cit. You shall have leave. [*Antony comes down.*]

Fourth Cit. A ring; stand round.

First Cit. Stand from the hearse, stand from the body.

Sec. Cit. Room for Antony, most noble Antony.

Ant. Nay, press not so upon me; stand far off.

Several Cit. Stand back; room; bear back.

Ant. If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.
You all do know this mantle: I remember
The first time ever Cæsar put it on;

¹ Napkins—Handkerchiefs.

'T was on a summer's evening, in his tent,
That day he overcame the Nervii¹:
Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through:
See what a rent the envious Casca made:

- 470 Through this the well-beloved Brutus stabb'd;
And as he pluck'd his cursed steel away,
Mark how the blood of Cæsar follow'd it,
As rushing out of doors, to be resolved
If Brutus so unkindly knock'd, or no;
475 For Brutus, as you know, was Cæsar's angel:²
Judge, O you gods, how dearly Cæsar loved him!
This was the most unkindest cut of all;
For when the noble Cæsar saw him stab,
Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms,
480 Quite vanquish'd him: then burst his mighty heart;
And, in his mantle muffling up his face,
Even at the base of Pompey's statua,
Which all the while ran blood, great Cæsar fell.
O, what a fall was there, my countrymen!
485 Then I, and you, and all of us fell down,
Whilst bloody treason flourish'd over us.
O, now you weep; and I perceive, you feel
The dint of pity: these are gracious drops.
Kind souls, what, weep you when you but behold
490 Our Cæsar's vesture wounded? Look you here,

[*Lifting Cæsar's mantle*

Here is himself, marr'd, as you see, with traitors.

First Cit. O piteous spectacle!

Sec. Cit. O noble Cæsar!

Third Cit. O woful day!

- 495 *Fourth Cit.* O traitors, villains!

First Cit. O most bloody sight!

Sec. Cit. We will be revenged.

All. Revenge! About! Seek! Burn! Fire! Kill! Slay!

Let not a traitor live!

Ant. Stay, countrymen.

- 500 *First Cit.* Peace there! hear the noble Antony.

¹ Nervii—A very brave people whom Cæsar defeated after a terrible battle, in which he displayed remarkable heroism.

² Cæsar's angel—Good angel.

Sec. Cit. We'll hear him, we'll follow him, we'll die with him.

Ant. Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up
To such a sudden flood of mutiny.

They that have done this deed are honourable:

What private griefs they have, alas, I know not,

That made them do it; they are wise and honourable,

And will, no doubt, with reasons answer you.

I come not, friends, to steal away your hearts:

I am no orator, as Brutus is;

But, as you know me all, a plain blunt man,

That love my friend; and that they know full well

That gave me public leave to speak of him:

For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth,

Action, nor utterance, nor the power of speech,

To stir men's blood: I only speak right on;

I tell you that which you yourselves do know;

Show you sweet Cæsar's wounds, poor dumb mouths,

And bid them speak for me: but were I Brutus,

And Brutus Antony, there were an Antony

Would ruffle up your spirits and put a tongue

In every wound of Cæsar that should move

The stones of Rome to rise and mutiny.

All. We'll mutiny.

First Cit. We'll burn the house of Brutus.

Third Cit. Away, then! come, seek the conspirators.

Ant. Yet hear me, countrymen; yet hear me speak.

All. Peace, ho! Hear Antony. Most noble Antony!

Ant. Why, friends, you go to do you know not what:
Wherein hath Cæsar thus deserved your loves?

Alas, you know not: I must tell you, then:

You have forgot the will I told you of.

All. Most true. The will! Let's stay and hear the will.

Ant. Here is the will, and under Cæsar's seal.

To every Roman citizen he gives,

To every several man, seventy-five drachmas.¹

Sec. Cit. Most noble Cæsar! We'll revenge his death.

¹ Seventy-five drachmas—A drachma was a Greek coin worth about eighteen cents intrinsically, but in buying power worth between two and three dollars.

Third Cit. O royal Cæsar!

140 *Ant.* Hear me with patience.

All. Peace, ho!

Ant. Moreover, he hath left you all his walks,
His private arbours and new-planted orchards,
On this side Tiber; he hath left them you,
And to your heirs for ever, common pleasures,
145 To walk abroad, and recreate¹ yourselves.

Here was a Cæsar! when comes such another?

First Cit. Never, never. Come, away, away!
We'll burn his body in the holy place,
And with the brands fire the traitors' houses.

150 Take up the body.

Sec. Cit. Go fetch fire.

Third Cit. Pluck down benches.

Fourth Cit. Pluck down forms, windows, anything.

[*Exeunt citizens with the body.*]

Ant. Now let it work. Mischief, thou art afoot,

155 Take thou what course thou wilt!

Enter a Servant.

How now, fellow!

Serv. Sir, Octavius is already come to Rome.

Ant. Where is he?

Serv. He and Lepidus are at Cæsar's house.

Ant. And thither will I straight to visit him:

160 He comes upon a wish.² Fortune is merry,
And in this mood will give us any thing.

Serv. I heard him say, Brutus and Cassius
Are rid like madmen through the gates of Rome.

Ant. Belike they had some notice of the people,

165 How I had moved them. Bring me to Octavius. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III. A street.

Enter CINNA the poet.

Cin. I dreamt to-night that I did feast with Cæsar,
And things unluckily charge my fantasy:³

¹ Recreate—Refresh.

² Upon a wish—In answer to a wish.

³ Things unluckily charge my fantasy—I fancy ill-luck is coming

I have no will to wander forth of doors,
Yet something leads me forth.

Enter Citizens.

First Cit. What is your name? 570

Sec. Cit. Where do you dwell?

Third Cit. Whither are you going?

Fourth Cit. Are you a married man or a bachelor?

Sec. Cit. Answer every man directly. 575

First Cit. Ay, and briefly.

Fourth Cit. Ay, and wisely.

Third Cit. Ay, and truly, you were best.

Cin. What is my name? Whither am I going? Where do I dwell? Am I a married man or a bachelor? Then, to answer every man directly and briefly, wisely and truly: 580
wisely I say, I am a bachelor.

Sec. Cit. That 's as much as to say, they are fools that marry; you'll bear me a bang¹ for that, I fear. Proceed; directly.

Cin. Directly, I am going to Cæsar's funeral. 585

First Cit. As a friend or an enemy?

Cin. As a friend.

Sec. Cit. That matter is answered directly.

Fourth Cit. For your dwelling,—briefly.

Cin. Briefly, I dwell by the Capitol. 590

Third Cit. Your name, sir, truly.

Cin. Truly, my name is Cinna.

First Cit. Tear him to pieces; he 's a conspirator.

Cin. I am Cinna the poet, I am Cinna the poet.

Fourth Cit. Tear him for his bad verses, tear him for his 595
bad verses.

Cin. I am not Cinna the conspirator.

Fourth Cit. It is no matter, his name 's Cinna; pluck but his name out of his heart, and turn him going.²

Third Cit. Tear him, tear him! Come, brands, ho! fire- 600
brands: to Brutus', to Cassius'; burn all: some to Decius' house, and some to Casca's; some to L. rrius'; away, go!

[*Exeunt.*]

¹ You'll bear me a bang—Get a blow from me.

² Turn him going—Send him about his business.

ACT IV

SCENE I. *A house in Rome.*

ANTONY, OCTAVIUS, and LEPIDUS, *seated at a table.*

Ant. These many, then, shall die; their names are prick'd.

Oct. Your brother too must die; consent you, Lepidus?

Lep. I do consent,—

Oct. Prick him down, Antony.

Lep. Upon condition Publius shall not live,

⁸ Who is your sister's son, Mark Antony.

Ant. He shall not live; look, with a spot I damn¹ him.

But, Lepidus, go you to Cæsar's house;

Fetch the will hither, and we shall determine

How to cut off some charge in legacies.²

¹⁰ *Lep.* What, shall I find you here?

Oct. Or here, or at the Capitol.

[*Exit Lepidus.*]

Ant. This is a slight unmeritable man,

Meet to be sent on errands: is it fit,

The three-fold world divided, he should stand

¹⁵ One of the three to share it?

Oct. So you thought him;

And took his voice who should be prick'd to die,

In our black sentence and proscription.

Ant. Octavius, I have seen more days than you:

And though we lay these honours on this man,

²⁰ To ease ourselves of divers slanderous loads,

He shall but bear them as the ass bears gold,

To groan and sweat under the business,

Either led or driven, as we point the way;

And having brought our treasure where we will,

²⁵ Then take we down his load, and turn him off,

Like to the empty ass, to shake his ears,

And graze in commons.

Oct. You may do your will;

But he's a tried and valiant soldier.

¹ Damn—Condemn.

² Charge in legacies—Charge on Cæsar's estate in the form of legacies.

Ant. So is my horse, Octavius; and for that
 I do appoint him store of provender:
 It is a creature that I teach to fight,
 To wind,¹ to stop, to run directly on,
 His corporal motion govern'd by my spirit.
 And, in some taste, is Lepidus but so;
 He must be taught and train'd and bid go forth;
 A barren-spirited fellow; one that feeds
 On abjects, orts and imitations,²
 Which, out of use and staled by other men,
 Begin his fashion:³ do not talk of him,
 But as a property. And now, Octavius,
 Listen great things:—Brutus and Cassius
 Are levying powers:⁴ we must straight make head:
 Therefore let our alliance be combined,
 Our best friends made, our means stretch'd;
 And let us presently go sit in council,
 How covert matters⁵ may be best disclosed,
 And open perils surest answered.

Oct. Let us do so: for we are at the stake,⁶
 And bay'd about with many enemies;
 And some that smile have in their hearts, I fear,
 Millions of mischiefs.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II. *Camp near Sardis. Before Brutus' tent.*

Drum. Enter BRUTUS, LUCILIUS, LUCIUS, and Soldiers;
 TITINIUS and PINDARUS meeting them.

Bru. Stand, ho!

Lucil. Give the word, ho! and stand.

Bru. What now, Lucilius! is Cassius near?

¹ To wind—To turn.

² Abjects... imitations—Abjects as a noun refers to persons, meaning an outcast. Orts—A scrap. Abject orts is another reading where abject is an adj., meaning "thrown away."

³ Begin his fashion—Come in fashion with him.

⁴ Levying powers—Raising forces.

⁵ How covert matters, etc.—Supply "to consider" before this line.

⁶ At the stake—A metaphor. In bear-baiting, the bear was fastened to a stake.

• 66 *Lucil.* He is at hand¹; and Pindarus is come
To do you salutation from his master.

Bru. He greets me well. Your master, Pindarus,
In his own change, or by ill officers,
Hath given me some worthy cause to wish

60 Things done, undone: but, if he be at hand,
I shall be satisfied.

Pin. I do not doubt
But that my noble master will appear
Such as he is, full of regard and honour.

Bru. He is not doubted. A word, Lucilius;
65 How he received you, let me be resolved.

Lucil. With courtesy and with respect enough;
But not with such familiar instances,
Nor with such free and friendly conference,
As he hath used of old.

Bru. Thou hast described
70 A hot friend cooling: ever note, Lucilius,
When love begins to sicken and decay,
It useth an enforced ceremony.

There are no tricks in plain and simple faith;
But hollow men, like horses hot at hand,
75 Make gallant show and promise of their mettle;
But when they should endure the bloody spur,²
They fall their crests, and, like deceitful jades,
Sink in the trial. Comes his army on?

Lucil. They mean this night in Sardis to be quarter'd;
80 The greater part, the horse in general,
Are come with Cassius.

Bru. Hark! he is arrived.

[*Low march within.*

March gently on to meet him.

Enter CASSIUS and his powers.

Cas. Stand, ho!

Bru. Stand, ho! Speak the word along.

85 *First Sol.* Stand!

¹ At hand—In hand.

² Endure the bloody spur—Here seems to mean “respond to the spur.”

Sec. Sol. Stand!

Third Sol. Stand!

Cas. Most noble brother, you have done me wrong.

Bru. Judge me, you gods! wrong I mine enemies?
And, if not so, how should I wrong a brother? 90

Cas. Brutus, this sober form of yours hides wrongs;
And when you do them—

Bru. Cassius, be content;
Speak your griefs¹ softly: I do know you well.
Before the eyes of both our armies here,
Which should perceive nothing but love from us, 95
Let us not wrangle: bid them move away;
Then in my tent, Cassius, enlarge² your griefs,
And I will give you audience.

Cas. Pindarus,
Bid our commanders lead their charges off
A little from this ground. 100

Bru. Lucilius, do you the like; and let no man
Come to our tent till we have done our conference.
Let Lucius and Titinius guard our door. [Exeunt.

SCENE III. *Brutus' tent.*

Enter BRUTUS and CASSIUS.

Cas. That you have wrong'd me doth appear in this:
You have condemn'd and noted Lucius Pella 105
For taking bribes here of the Sardians;
Wherein my letters, praying on his side,
Because I knew the man, were slighted off.³

Bru. You wrong'd yourself to write in such a case. 110

Cas. In such a time as this it is not meet
That every nice⁴ offence should bear his comment.

Bru. Let me tell you, Cassius, you yourself
Are much condemn'd to have an itching palm;⁵

¹ Griefs—Grievances.

² Enlarge—Enlarge upon.

³ Slighted off—Slighted.

⁴ Nice—Trifling, petty.

⁵ Condemn'd to have an itching palm—Condemned as being avaricious.

To sell and mart your offices for gold
115 To undeservers.

Cas. I an itching palm!

You know that you are Brutus that speak this,
Or, by the gods, this speech were else your last.

Bru. The name of Cassius honours this corruption,
And chastisement doth therefore hide his head.

120 *Cas.* Chastisement!

Bru. Remember March, the ides of March remember:

Did not great Julius bleed for justice' sake?

What villain touch'd his body, that did stab,

And not for justice? What, shall one of us,

125 That struck the foremost man of all this world

But for supporting robbers, shall we now

Contaminate our fingers with base bribes,

And sell the mighty space of our large honours

For so much trash as may be grasped thus?

130 I had rather be a dog, and bay¹ the moon,

Than such a Roman.

Cas. Brutus, bay not me;

I'll not endure it: you forget yourself,

To hedge me in; I am a soldier, I,

Older in practice, abler than yourself

135 To make conditions:

Bru. Go to; you are not, Cassius.

Cas. I am.

Bru. I say you are not.

Cas. Urge me no more, I shall forget myself;

Have mind upon your health, tempt me no farther.

140 *Bru.* Away, slight man!

Cas. Is 't possible?

Bru.

Hear me, for I will speak.

Must I give way and room to your rash choler?

Shall I be frighted when a madman stares?

Cas. O ye gods, ye gods! must I endure all this?

145 *Bru.* All this! ay, more: fret till your proud heart break;

Go show your slaves how choleric you are,

And make your bondmen tremble. Must I budge?

Must I observe you? must I stand and crouch

¹ Bay—Bark at.

Under your testy humour? By the gods,
You shall digest the venom of your spleen,
Though it do split you; for, from this day forth,
I'll use you for my mirth, yea, for my laughter,
When you are waspish.

Cas. Is it come to this?

Bru. You say you are a better soldier;
Let it appear so; make your vaunting true,
And it shall please me well: for mine own part,
I shall be glad to learn of noble men.

Cas. You wrong me every way; you wrong me, Brutus;
I said, an elder soldier, not a better:
Did I say "better"?

Bru. If you did, I care not.

Cas. When Cæsar lived, he durst not thus have moved me.

Bru. Peace, peace! you durst not so have tempted him.

Cas. I durst not!

Bru. No.

Cas. What, durst not tempt him!

Bru. For your life you durst not.

Cas. Do not presume too much upon my love;
I may do that I shall be sorry for.

Bru. You have done that you should be sorry for.

There is no terror, Cassius, in your threats,

For I am arm'd so strong in honesty

That they pass by me as the idle wind,

Which I respect not. I did send to you

For certain sums of gold, which you denied me:

For I can raise no money by vile means:

By heaven, I had rather coin my heart,

And drop my blood for drachmas, than to wring

From the hard hands of peasants their vile trash

By any indirection¹: I did send

To you for gold to pay my legions,

Which you denied me: was that done like Cassius?

Should I have answer'd Caius Cassius so?

When Marcus Brutus grows so covetous,

To lock such rascal² counters from his friends

¹ Indirection—Dishonest practice, compare crookedness.

² Rascal—Worthless.

Be ready, gods, with all your thunderbolts;
185 Dash him to pieces!

Cas. I denied you not.

Bru. You did.

Cas. I did not: he was but a fool that brought
My answer back. Brutus hath rived my heart:
A friend should bear his friend's infirmities,
190 But Brutus makes mine greater than they are.

Bru. I do not, till you practise them on me.

Cas. You love me not.

Bru. I do not like your faults.

Cas. A friendly eye could never see such faults.

Bru. A flatterer's would not, though they do appear

195 As huge as high Olympus.

Cas. Come, Antony, and young Octavius, come,
Revenge yourselves alone on Cassius,
For Cassius is aweary of the world:
Hated by one he loves; braved by his brother;
200 Check'd like a bondman; all his faults observed,
Set in a note-book, learn'd, and conn'd by rote,
To cast into my teeth. O, I could weep
My spirit from mine eyes! There is my dagger,
And here my naked breast; within, a heart
205 Dearer than Plutus¹ mine, richer than gold:
If that thou be'st a Roman, take it forth;
I, that denied thee gold, will give my heart:
Strike, as thou didst at Cæsar; for, I know,
When thou didst hate him worst, thou lovedst him better
210 Than ever thou lovedst Cassius.

Bru. Sheathe your dagger:

Be angry when you will, it shall have scope;
Do what you will, dishonour shall be humour.²
O Cassius, you are yoked with a lamb
That carries anger as the flint bears fire;
215 Who, much enforced, shows a hasty spark,
And straight is cold again.

Cas. Hath Cassius lived
To be but mirth and laughter to his Brutus,

¹ Plutus —Pluto, the god of riches.

² Shall be humour—Shall be considered humour or whim.

When grief, and blood ill-temper'd, vexeth him?

Bru. When I spoke that, I was ill-temper'd too.

Cas. Do you confess so much? Give me your hand. 220

Bru. And my heart too.

Cas. O Brutus!

Bru. What's the matter?

Cas. Have not you love enough to bear with me,
When that rash humour which my mother gave me
Makes me forgetful?

Bru. Yes, Cassius; and, from henceforth,
When you are over-earnest with your Brutus,
He'll think your mother chides, and leave you so. 225

Poet. [Within] Let me go in to see the generals;
There is some grudge between 'em, 't is not meet
They be alone.

Lucil. [Within] You shall not come to them. 230

Poet. [Within] Nothing but death shall stay me.

Enter Poet, followed by LUCILIUS, TITINIUS, and LUCIUS.

Cas. How now! what's the matter?

Poet. For shame, you generals! what do you mean?
Love, and be friends, as two such men should be;
For I have seen more years, I'm sure, than ye. 235

Cas. Ha, ha! how vilely doth this cynic rhyme!

Bru. Get you hence, sirrah; saucy fellow, hence!

Cas. Bear with him, Brutus; 't is his fashion.

Bru. I'll know his humour, when he knows his time:
What should the wars do with these jigg¹ing¹ fools? 240
Companion,² hence!

Cas. Away, away, be gone! [Exit Poet.]

Bru. Lucilius and Titinius, bid the commanders
Prepare to lodge their companies to-night.

Cas. And come yourselves, and bring Messala with you
Immediately to us. [Exeunt Lucilius and Titinius. 245

Bru. Lucius, a bowl of wine! [Exit Lucius.]

Cas. I did not think you could have been so angry.

Bru. O Cassius, I am sick of many griefs.

Cas. Of your philosophy you make no use,

¹ Jigg^{ing}—Rhyming.

² Companion—Fellow.

If you give place to accidental evils.

260 *Bru.* No man bears sorrow better. Portia is dead.

Cas. Ha! Portia!

Bru. She is dead.

Cas. How 'scaped I killing when I cross'd you so?

O insupportable and touching loss!

265 Upon what sickness?

Bru. Impatient of my absence,
And grief¹ that young Octavius with Mark Antony
Have made themselves so strong:—for with her death
That tidings came;—with this she fell distract,
And, her attendants absent, swallow'd fire.

269 *Cas.* And died so?

Bru. Even so.

Cas. O ye immortal gods!

Re-enter LUCIUS, with wine and taper.

Bru. Speak no more of her. Give me a bowl of wine.
In this I bury all unkindness, Cassius.

Cas. My heart is thirsty for that noble pledge.
Fill, Lucius, till the wine o'erswell the cup;

275 I cannot drink too much of Brutus' love.

Bru. Come in, Titinius!

[*Exit Lucius.*]

Re-enter TITINIUS with MESSALA.

Welcome, good Messala.

Now sit we close about this taper here,
And call in question our necessities.

Cas. Portia, art thou gone?

Bru. No more, I pray you.

279 *Messala,* I have here received letters,
That young Octavius and Mark Antony
Come down upon us with a mighty power,
Bending their expedition toward Philippi.

Mes. Myself have letters of the self-same tenor.

275 *Bru.* With what addition?

Mes. That by proscription and bills of outlawry,
Octavius, Antony, and Lepidus,

¹ And grief—If the noun were made the participle *grieved*, the passage would be simplified.

Have put to death an hundred senators.

Bru. Therein our letters do not well agree;
Mine speak of seventy senators that died
By their proscriptions, Cicero being one.

Cas. Cicero one!

Mes. Cicero is dead,
And by that order of proscription.
Had you your letters from your wife, my lord?

Bru. No, Messala.

Mes. Nor nothing in your letters writ of her?

Bru. Nothing, Messala.

Mes. That, methinks, is strange.

Bru. Why ask you? hear you aught of her in yours?

Mes. No, my lord.

Bru. Now, as you are a Roman, tell me true.

Mes. Then like a Roman bear the truth I tell:
For certain she is dead, and by strange manner.

Bru. Why, farewell, Portia. We must die, Messala:
With meditating that she must die once,
I have the patience to endure it now.

Mes. Even so great men great losses should endure.

Cas. I have as much of this in art as you,
But yet my nature could not bear it so.

Bru. Well, to our work alive. What do you think
Of marching to Philippi presently?

Cas. I do not think it good.

Bru. Your reason?

Cas. This it is:

'T is better that the enemy seek us:
So shall he waste his means, weary his soldiers,
Doing himself offence¹; whilst we, lying still,
Are full of rest, defence, and nimbleness.

Bru. Good reasons must, of force, give place to better.
The people 'twixt Philippi and this ground
Do stand but in a forced affection;
For they have grudged us contribution:
The enemy, marching along by them,
By them shall make a fuller number up,
Come on refresh'd, new-add'd, and encouraged;

¹ Offence—Harm.

From which advantage shall we cut him off,
 If at Philippi we do face him there,
 215 These people at our back.

Cas. Hear me, good brother.

Bru. Under your pardon. You must note beside,
 That we have tried the utmost of our friends,
 Our legions are brim-full, our cause is ripe:
 The enemy increaseth every day;

230 We, at the height, are ready to decline.
 There is a tide in the affairs of men,
 Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
 Omitted, all the voyage of their life
 Is bound in shallows and in miseries.

235 On such a full sea are we now afloat;
 And we must take the current when it serves,
 Or lose our ventures.

Cas. Then, with your will, go on;
 We'll along ourselves, and meet them at Philippi.

Bru. The deep of night is crept upon our talk,
 240 And nature must obey necessity;
 Which we will niggard¹ with a little rest.
 There is no more to say?

Cas. No more. Good night:
 Early to-morrow will we rise, and hence.

Bru. Lucius! [*Enter Lucius.*] My gown. [*Exit Lucius.*]
 Farewell, good Messala:

255 Good night, Titinius. Noble, noble Cassius,
 Good night, and good repose.

Cas. O my dear brother!
 This was an ill beginning of the night:
 Never come such division 'tween our souls!
 Let it not, Brutus.

Bru. Every thing is well.

260 *Cas.* Good night, my lord.

Bru. Good night, good brother.

Tit. Mes. Good night, Lord Brutus.

Bru. Farewell, every one.
 [*Exeunt all but Brutus.*]

¹ Niggard—A verb, to treat in a niggardly manner.

Re-enter LUCIUS, with the gown.

Give me the gown. Where is thy instrument?

Luc. Here in the tent.

Bru.

What, thou speak'st drowsily?

Poor knave, I blame thee not; thou art o'erwatch'd.

Call Claudius and some other of my men;

I'll have them sleep on cushions in my tent.

Luc. Varro and Claudius!

Enter VARRO and CLAUDIUS.

Var. Calls my lord?

Bru. I pray you, sirs, lie in my tent and sleep;
It may be I shall raise you by and by

On business to my brother Cassius.

Var. So please you, we will stand and watch your pleasure.

Bru. I will not have it so; lie down, good sirs;
It may be I shall otherwise bethink me.

Look, Lucius, here 's the book I sought for so;

I put it in the pocket of my gown.

[Var. and Clau. lie down.]

Luc. I was sure your lordship did not give it me.

Bru. Bear with me, good boy, I am much forgetful.
Canst thou hold up thy heavy eyes awhile,
And touch thy instrument a strain or two?

Luc. Ay, my lord, an 't please you.

Bru.

It does, my boy:

I trouble thee too much, but thou art willing.

Luc. It is my duty, sir.

Bru. I should not urge thy duty past thy might;
I know young bloods look for a time of rest.

Luc. I have slept, my lord, already.

Bru. It was well done; and thou shalt sleep again;
I will not hold thee long: if I do live,
I will be good to thee.

[Music, and a song.]

This is a sleepy tune. O murderous slumber,
Lay'st thou thy leaden mace upon my boy,
That plays thee music? Gentle knave, good night;
I will not do thee so much wrong to wake thee:
If thou dost nod, thou break'st thy instrument;
I'll take it from thee; and, good boy, good night.

Let me see, let me see; is not the leaf turn'd down
Where I left reading? Here it is, I think.

Enter the Ghost of CÆSAR.

How ill this taper burns! Ha! who comes here?
I think it is the weakness of mine eyes
300 That shapes this monstrous apparition.
It comes upon me. Art thou any thing?
Art thou some god, some angel, or some devil,
That makest my blood cold and my hair to stare¹?
Speak to me what thou art.

305 *Ghost.* Thy evil spirit, Brutus.

Bru. Why comest thou?

Ghost. To tell thee thou shalt see me at Philippi.

Bru. Well; then I shall see thee again?

Ghost. Ay, at Philippi.

310 *Bru.* Why, I will see thee at Philippi, then. [Exit Ghost.]

Now I have taken heart thou vanishest:

Ill spirit, I would hold more talk with thee.

Boy, Lucius! Varro! Claudius! Sirs, awake!

Claudius!

315 *Luc.* The strings, my lord, are false.

Bru. He thinks he still is at his instrument.

Lucius, awake!

Luc. My lord?

Bru. Didst thou dream, Lucius, that thou so criest out?

400 *Luc.* My lord, I do not know that I did cry.

Bru. Yes, that thou didst: didst thou see any thing?

Luc. Nothing, my lord.

Bru. Sleep again, Lucius. Sirrah Claudius! [To Var.]

Fellow thou, awake!

405 *Var.* My lord?

Clau. My lord?

Bru. Why did you so cry out, sirs, in your sleep?

Var. Clau. Did we, my lord?

Bru. Ay: saw you any thing?

Var. No, my lord, I saw nothing.

410 *Clau.* Nor I, my lord.

Bru. Go and commend me to my brother Cassius;

¹ Stare—Project stiffly, stand on end.

Bid him set on his powers betimes before,
And we will follow.

Var. Clau.

It shall be done, my lord. [Exeunt.

ACT V

SCENE I. *The Plains of Philippi.*

Enter OCTAVIUS, ANTONY and their Army.

Oct. Now, Antony, our hopes are answered:
You said the enemy would not come down,
But keep the hills and upper regions;
It proves not so: their battles¹ are at hand;
They mean to war with us at Philippi here.
Answering before we do hear of them.

Ant. Tut, I am in their business, and I know
Wherefore they do it: they could be content
To visit other places; and come down
With fearful bravery,² thinking by this face
To fasten in our thoughts that they have courage;
But 't is not so.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Prepare you, generals:
The enemy comes on in gallant show;
Their bloody sign of battle⁴ is hung out,
And something to be done immediately.

Ant. Octavius, lead your battle softly on,
Upon the left hand of the even field.

Oct. Upon the right hand I; keep thou the left.

Ant. Why do you cross me in this exigent?

Oct. I do not cross you; but I will do so. [March.³⁰

Drum. *Enter BRUTUS, CASSIUS, and their Army; LUCILIUS, TITINIUS, MESSALA, and others.*

Bru. They stand, and would have parley.

Cas. Stand fast, Titinius: we must out and talk.

¹ Battles—Troops.

² Warn—Challenge.

³ Fearful bravery—A show of courage, where there is fear.

⁴ Bloody sign of battle—A red flag called *veillum*.

Oct. Mark Antony, shall we give sign of battle?

Ant. No, Cæsar, we will answer on their charge.

²⁵ *Make forth; the generals would have some words.*

Oct. Stir not until the signal.

Bru. Words before blows: is it so, countrymen?

Oct. Not that we love words better, as you do.

Bru. Good words are better than bad strokes, Octavius.

³⁰ *Ant.* In your bad strokes, Brutus, you give good words:

Witness the hole you made in Cæsar's heart,

Crying "Long live! hail, Cæsar!"

Cas. Antony,

The posture of your blows are yet unknown;

But for your words, they rob the Hybla¹ bees,

³⁵ *And leave them honeyless.*

Ant. Not stingless too?

Bru. O, yes, and soundless too;

For you have stol'n their buzzing, Antony,

And very wisely threat before you sting.

Ant. Villains, you did not so, when your vile daggers

⁴⁰ *Hack'd one another in the sides of Cæsar:*

You show'd your teeth like apes, and fawn'd like hounds,

And bow'd like bondmen, kissing Cæsar's feet;

Whilst damned Casca, like a cur, behind

Struck Cæsar on the neck. O you flatterers!

⁴⁵ *Cas.* Flatterers! Now, Brutus, thank yourself:

This tongue had not offended so to-day,

If Cassius might have ruled.

Oct. Come, come, the cause: if arguing make us sweat,

The proof of it will turn to redder drops.

⁵⁰ *Look;*

I draw a sword against conspirators;

When think you that the sword goes up again?

Never, till Cæsar's three and thirty wounds

Be well avenged; or till another Cæsar²

⁵⁵ *Have added slaughter to the sword of traitors.*

Bru. Cæsar, thou canst not die by traitors' hands,

Unless thou brings't them with thee.

¹ *Hybla*—Three towns of this name in Sicily noted for their honey.

² *Till another Cæsar, etc.*—Till another Cæsar falls slain by traitors.

Oct. So I hope;
I was not born to die on Brutus' sword.

Bru. O, if thou wert the noblest of thy strain,¹
Young man, thou couldst not die more honourable.

Cas. A peevish schoolboy, worthless² of such honour,
Join'c³ with a masker and a reveller!

Ant. Old Cassius still!

Oct. Come, Antony, away!
Defiance, traitors, hurl we in your teeth:
If you dare fight to-day, come to the field;
If not, when you have stomachs.

[Exeunt Octavius, Antony, and their army.]

Cas. Why, now, blow wind, swell billow and swim bark!
The storm is up, and all is on the hazard.

Bru. Ho, Lucilius! hark, a word with you.

Lucil.

[Standing forth] My lord?

[Brutus and Lucilius converse apart.]

Cas. Messala!

Mes. *[Standing forth]* What says my general?

Cas. Messala,

This is my birth-day; as this very day
Was Cassius born. Give me thy hand, Messala:

Be thou my witness that against my will,

As Pompey was, am I compell'd to set

Upon one battle all our liberties.

You know that I held Epicurus strong³

And his opinion: now I change my mind,

And partly credit things that do presage.

Coming from Sardis, on our former⁴ ensign

Two mighty eagles fell,⁵ and there they perch'd,

Gorging and feeding from our soldiers' hands;

Who to Philippi here consorted us:

This morning are they fled away and gone;

And in their steads do ravens, crows and kites,

¹ Strain—Race.

² Worthless—Unworthy.

³ Held Epicurus strong—Strongly favoured the views of Epicurus, who did not believe in supernatural intervention in human affairs.

⁴ Former—Foremost.

⁵ Fell—Alighted.

Fly o'er our heads and downward look on us,
As we were sickly prey; their shadows seem
A canopy most fatal, under which
Our army lies, ready to give up the ghost.

99 *Mes.* Believe not so.

Cas. I but believe it partly;
For I am fresh of spirit and resolved
To meet all perils very constantly.

Bru. Even so, Lucilius.

Cas. Now, most noble Brutus,
The gods to-day stand friendly, that we may,
100 Lovers in peace, lead on our days to age!
But since the affairs of men rest still incertain,
Let's reason with the worst that may befall.
If we do lose the battle, then is this
The very last time we shall speak together:

100 What are you then determined to do?

Bru. Even by the rule of that philosophy
By which I did blame Cato¹ for the death
Which he did give himself, I know not how,
But I do find it cowardly and vile,

106 For fear of what might fall, so to prevent²
The time of life: arming myself with patience
To stay³ the providence of some high powers
That govern us below.

Cas. Then, if we lose this battle,
You are contented to be led in triumph
110 Through the streets of Rome?

Bru. No, Cassius, no: think not, thou noble Roman,
That ever Brutus will go bound to Rome;
He bears too great a mind. But this same day
Must end that work the ides of March begun;
And whether we shall meet again I know not.

115 Therefore our everlasting farewell take:
For ever, and for ever, farewell, Cassius!

¹ Cato—He fought on the side of Pompey against Cæsar, and killed himself at Utica after the defeat at Thapsus. Brutus blamed him and would not do as he did.

² Prevent—Anticipate.

³ Stay—Await.

If we do meet again, why, we shall smile;
If not, why then, this parting was well made.

Cas. For ever, and for ever, farewell, Brutus!

If we do meet again, we'll smile indeed;
If not, 't is true this parting was well made.

Bru. Why, then, lead on. O, that a man might know
The end of this day's business ere it come!

But it sufficeth that the day will end,

And then the end is known. Come, ho! away! [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II. *The same. The field of battle.*

Alarum. Enter BRUTUS and MESSALA.

Bru. Ride, ride, Messala, ride, and give these bills
Unto the legions on the other side. [*Loud alarum.*]

Let them set on at once; for I perceive

But cold demeanour in Octavius' wing,

And sudden push gives them the overthrow.

Ride, ride, Messala: let them all come down. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III. *Another part of the field.*

Alarums. Enter CASSIUS and TITINIUS.

Cas. O, look, Titinius, look, the villains fly!

Myself have to mine own turn'd enemy:

This ensign here of mine was turning back;

I slew the coward, and did take it from him.

Tit. O Cassius, Brutus gave the word too early;

Who, having some advantage on Octavius,

Took it too eagerly: his soldiers fell to spoil,

Whilst we by Antony are all enclosed.

Enter PINDARUS.

Pin. Fly further off, my lord, fly further off;

Mark Antony is in your tents, my lord:

Fly, therefore, noble Cassius, fly far off.

Cas. This hill is far enough. Look, look, Titinius;

Are those my tents where I perceive the fire?

Tit. They are, my lord.

Cas. Titinius, if thou lovest me,
Mount thou my horse, and hide thy spurs in him,

Till he have brought thee up to yonder troops,
And here again; that I may rest assured
160 Whether yond troops are friend or enemy.

Tit. I will be here again, even with a thought. [Exit.

Cas. Go, Pindarus, get higher on that hill;
My sight was ever thick; regard Titinius,
And tell me what thou notest about the field.

[Pindarus ascends the hill.

165 This day I breathed first: time is come round,
And where I did begin, there shall I end;
My life is run his compass. Sirrah, what news?

Pin. [Above] O my lord!

Cas. What news?

170 *Pin.* [Above] Titinius is enclosed round about
With horsemen, that make to him on the spur;
Yet he spurs on. Now they are almost on him.
Now, Titinius! Now some light. O, he lights too.
He's ta'en. [Shout.] And, hark! they shout for joy.

175 *Cas.* Come down, behold no more.

O, coward that I am, to live so long,
To see my best friend ta'en before my face!

PINDARUS descends.

Come hither, sirrah:

In Parthia did I take thee prisoner;
170 And then I swore thee, saving of thy life,
That whatsoever I did bid thee do,
Thou shouldst attempt it. Come now, keep thine oath;
Now be a freeman: and with this good sword,
That ran through Cæsar's bowels, search this bosom.

175 Stand not to answer: here, take thou the hilts¹;

And, when my face is cover'd, as 't is now,
Guide thou the sword. [Pindarus stabs him.] Cæsar, thou
art revenged,

Even with the sword that kill'd thee. [Dies.

Pin. So, I am free; yet would not so have been,
180 Durst I have done my will. O Cassius,
Far from this country Pindarus shall run,
Where never Roman shall take note of him. [Exit.

¹ Hilts—See "funerals," V, III, 237.

Re-enter TITINIUS with MESSALA.

Mes. It is but change, Titinius; for Octavius
Is overthrown by noble Brutus' power,
As Cassius' legions are by Antony. 185

Tit. These tidings will well comfort Cassius.

Mes. Where did you leave him?

Tit. All disconsolate,
With Pindarus his bondman, on this hill.

Mes. Is not that he that lies upon the ground? 190

Tit. He lies not like the living. O my heart!

Mes. Is not that he?

Tit. No, this was he, Messala,
But Cassius is no more. O setting sun,
As in thy red rays thou dost sink to night,
So in his red blood Cassius' day is set;
The sun of Rome is set! Our day is gone; 195
Clouds, dews, and dangers come; our deeds are done!
Mistrust of my success hath done this deed.

Mes. Mistrust of good success hath done this deed.
O hateful error, melancholy's child,
Why dost thou show to the apt thoughts of men 200
The things that are not? O error, soon conceived,
Thou never comest unto a happy birth,
But kill'st the mother that engender'd thee!

Tit. What, Pindarus! where art thou, Pindarus? 205

Mes. Seek him, Titinius, whilst I go to meet
The noble Brutus, thrusting this report
Into his ears; I may say, thrusting it;
For piercing steel and darts envenomed
Shall be as welcome to the ears of Brutus
As tidings of this sight. 210

Tit. Hie you, Messala,
And I will seek for Pindarus the while. [Exit Messala.

Why didst thou send me forth, brave Cassius?

Did I not meet thy friends? and did not they

Put on my brows this wreath of victory,

And bid me give it thee? Didst thou not hear their shouts? 215

Alas, thou hast misconstrued every thing!

But, hold thee, take this garland on thy brow;

Thy Brutus bid me give it thee, and I

Will do his bidding. Brutus, come apace,
 220 And see how I regarded Caius Cassius.
 By your leave, gods:—this is a Roman's part:
 Come, Cassius' sword, and find Titinius' heart.

[Kills himself].

*Alarum. Re-enter MESSALA, with BRUTUS, young CATO,
 STRATO, VOLUMNIUS, and LUCILIUS.*

Bru. Where, where, Messala, doth his body lie?

Mes. Lo, yonder, and Titinius mourning it.

225 *Bru.* Titinius' face is upward.

Cato. He is slain.

Bru. O Julius Cæsar, thou art mighty yet!
 Thy spirit walks abroad, and turns our swords
 In our own proper entrails.

[Low alarums.]

Cato. Brave Titinius!

I look, whether he have not crown'd dead Cassius!

230 *Bru.* Are yet two Romans living such as these?

last of all the Romans, fare thee well!

Impossible that ever Rome

Should breed thy fellow. Friends, I owe more tears

To this dead man than you shall see me pay.

235 I shall find time, Cassius, I shall find time.

Come, therefore, and to Thasos send his body:

His funerals shall not be in our camp,

Lest it discomfort us. Lucilius, come;

And come, young Cato; let us to the field.

240 *Labeo and Flavius, set our battles on:*

'T is three o'clock; and, Romans, yet ere night

We shall try fortune in a second fight.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE IV. *Another part of the field.*

*Alarum. Enter fighting; Soldiers of both armies; then
 BRUTUS, young CATO, LUCILIUS, and others.*

Bru. Yet, countrymen, O, yet hold up your heads!

Cato. What bastard doth not? Who will go with me?

245 I will proclaim my name about the field:

I am the son of Marcus Cato, ho!

A foe to tyrants, and my country's friend,

I am the son of Marcus Cato, ho!

Bru. And I am Brutus, Marcus Brutus, I;
Brutus, my country's friend; know me for Brutus!

[*Exit.* 250

Lucil. O young and noble Cato, art thou down?
Why, now thou diest as bravely as Titinius;
And mayst be honour'd, being Cato's son.

First Sol. Yield, or thou diest.

Lucil. Only I yield to die:
There is so much that thou wilt kill me straight;

255

[*Offering money.*

Kill Brutus, and be honour'd in his death.

First Sol. We must not. A noble prisoner!

Sec. Sol. Room, ho! Tell Antony, Brutus is ta'en.

First Sol. I'll tell the news. Here comes the general.

Enter ANTONY.

Brutus is ta'en, Brutus is ta'en, my lord.

260

Ant. Where is he?

Lucil. Safe, Antony; Brutus is safe enough:
I dare assure thee that no enemy
Shall ever take alive the noble Brutus:
The gods defend him from so great a shame!
When you do find him, or alive or dead,
He will be found like Brutus, like himself.

265

Ant. This is not Brutus, friend; but, I assure you,
A prize no less in worth: keep this man safe;
Give him all kindness: I had rather have
Such men my friends than enemies. Go on,
And see whether Brutus be alive or dead;
And bring us word unto Octavius' tent
How everything is chanced.

270

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V. *Another part of the field.*

*Enter BRUTUS, DARDANIUS, CLITUS, STRATO, and
VOLUMNIUS.*

Bru. Come, poor remains of friends, rest on this rock.

275

Cli. Statilius show'd the torch-light, but, my lord,
He came not back: he is or ta'en or slain.

Bru. Sit thee down, Clitus: slaying is the word;
It is a deed in fashion. Hark thee, Clitus.

[*Whispers.*

280 *Cli.* What, I, my lord? No, not for all the world.

Bru. Peace then: no words.

Cli. I'll rather kill myself.

Bru. Hark thee, Dardanius. [Whispers.

Dar. Shall I do such a deed?

Cli. O Dardanius!

Dar. O Clitus!

285 *Cli.* What ill request did Brutus make to thee?

Dar. To kill him, Clitus. Look, he meditates.

Cli. Now is that noble vessel full of grief,

That it runs over even at his eyes.

Bru. Come hither, good Volumnius; list a word.

290 *Vol.* What says my lord?

Bru. Why, this, Volumnius:

The ghost of Cæsar hath appear'd to me

Two several times by night; at Sardis once,

And, this last night, here in Philippi fields:

I know my hour is come.

Vol. Not so, my lord.

295 *Bru.* Nay, I am sure it is, Volumnius.

Thou seest the world, Volumnius, how it goes;

Our enemies have beat us to the pit:¹

[Low alarums.

It is more worthy to leap in ourselves,

Than tarry till they push us. Good Volumnius,

300 Thou know'st that we two went to school together:

Even for that our love of old, I prithee,

Hold thou my sword-hilts, whilst I run on it.

Vol. That 's not an office for a friend, my lord,

[Alarum still.

Cli. Fly, fly, my lord; there is no tarrying here.

305 *Bru.* Farewell to you; and you; and you, Volumnius.

Strato, thou hast been all this while asleep;

Farewell to thee, too, Strato. Countrymen,

My heart doth joy that yet in all my life

I found no man but he was true to me.

310 I shall have glory by this losing day

More than Octavius and Mark Antony

By this vile conquest shall attain unto.

So fare you well at once; for Brutus' tongue

¹ Beat us to the pit—A hunting term.

Hath almost ended his life's history:
Night hangs upon mine eyes; my bones would rest,
That have but labour'd to attain this hour. 315

[*Alarum. Cry within, "Fly, fly, fly!"*]

Cl. Fly, my lord, fly.

Bru.

Hence! I will follow.

[*Exeunt Clitus, Dardanius, and Volumnius.*]

I prithee, Strato, stay thou by thy lord;
Thou art a fellow of a good respect;
Thy life hath had some snatch¹ of honour in it: 320
Hold then my sword, and turn away thy face,
While I do run upon it. Wilt thou, Strato?

Stra. Give me your hand first. Fare you well, my lord.

Bru. Farewell, good Strato. [*Runs on his sword.*] Cæsar,
now be still:

I kill'd not thee with half so good a will. [*Dies.* 325

*Alarum. Retreat. Enter OCTAVIUS, ANTONY, MESSALA,
LUCILIUS, and the Army*

Oct. What man is that?

Mes. My master's man. Strato, where is thy master?

Stra. Free from the bondage you are in, Messala:
The conquerors can but make a fire of him;
For Brutus only overcame himself, 330
And no man else hath honour by his death.

Lucil. So Brutus should be found. I thank thee, Brutus
That thou hast proved Lucilius' saying true.

Oct. All that served Brutus, I will entertain them.
Fellow, wilt thou bestow thy time with me? 335

Stra. Ay, if Messala will prefer² me to you.

Oct. Do so, good Messala.

Mes. How died my master, Strato?

Stra. I held the sword, and he did run on it.

Mes. Octavius, then take him to follow thee,
That did the latest service to my master. 340

Ant. This was the noblest Roman of them all:
All the conspirators save only he
Did that they did in envy of great Cæsar;

¹ Snatch—Smack.

² Prefer—Recommend.

²⁴⁵ He only, in a general honest thought
And common good to all,¹ made one of them.
His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd² in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world "This was a man!"

²⁵⁰ *Oct.* According to his virtue let us use him,
With all respect and rites of burial.
Within my tent his bones to-night shall lie,
Most like a soldier, order'd honourably.
So call the field to rest; and let 's away,
²⁵⁵ To part the glories of this happy day.

[*Exeunt.*

¹ Common good to all—For the common good of all.

² The elements so mixed—The ancients believed that man was composed of four elements, air, earth, fire, and water. In Brutus they were properly blended.

[Act V

ceuni.

man was
Brutus